



Head Start 360

February 2020

I just wanted to take this time to express why the Head Start program means so much to my family. The staff of the Sulphur Springs Head Start program is so nice, sweet, kind, compassionate and amazing. They provide so much good information and help wherever needed. They are always there to answer questions and help when they can.

Mrs. Rita Taylor, Family Services Specialist, was there to help me after many years of trying to get a job in my field. I graduated with my master's in counseling 9 years ago and at that time, I had just been given my second granddaughter through CPS. So, my life plans as I had mapped out just got taken for a loop. I now had two small children again and by taking the second child in, it cost me my relationship so now I am alone again with my own two kids and two baby grand kids. I had to take whatever job came along to provide for the kids. I worked a lot of fast food and warehouses jobs so that I could work close to home and be there if the kids needed me at school. I then got the third grand baby.

A year and a half ago, Mrs. Taylor took my resume and revised it. Two weeks later I interviewed with Lake Regional and was hired on the spot as a mental health counselor. My dream job! I could never thank Mrs. Taylor enough for taking the time to really look my resume over and improve it and make it an outstanding resume that got me the job.

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten literacy program helped me and my family become close and really enjoy our time together. My older kids even got involved and read to the small kids. This became something we all enjoyed doing as a family. I truly believe that my kids love to read now because of this program. My grandkids love playing school at home and they read to their classes of stuffed animals all the time. We read over two thousand books that year between the two kids. I am looking forward to doing this with my grandson this year as well - and so are the girls.

The Christmas Angel Program saved our Christmas one year. We would not have had Christmas that year if it had not been for Mrs. Taylor and the generous donors that helped us. So, every year now the children and I make it a point to call Mrs. Taylor and ask her for a family that we can help. My children really get into this and love to go shopping for toys, clothes, shoes, and candy for the kids of the family. I let the girls do all the shopping for the family and then we pick out items for the parents and a food basket for them. My girls are so happy that they can make a family feel good and experience the joy of the holidays with their family and not have to worry.

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program has helped me so much. One, it was great to meet others just like me trying to raise their grandkids too. It gives us a place to meet, get support, and to ask for help if we need it. They are always so great at giving us information, handouts, and wonderful guest speakers to guide us and help us along our journey. The "Ginger Moment" by the LPC during the meetings, helps us with guidance, behaviors, and helping us understand our grandkids and what they need to become great people someday.

The Sulphur Springs Head Start program is like one big family. A great family where we always know that someone has our backs and best interest at heart. I love every one of the staff members and enjoy participating in as many things as I can with them. They have helped me more than I could ever express.

Thank you so much for everything!

Rita Williams

Grandparent of three amazing little girls and one grandson

