Is Even Start effective?

We asked participants about the ways in which their participation in Even Start has changed their lives. Below is a sample of responses from parents enrolled in various family literacy programs in Pennsylvania.

Parents’ reports —

- “I would never have [taken] any steps to [get my GED]. I’ve always said I wanted one, but I never took that step. I think [family literacy] makes it easier for people like me that want to do it, but they’re afraid to take the first step.”
- “I didn’t know about America. This program taught me what to do and helped me with meetings with doctors and teachers to help with communication.”
- “[My son] is more interested [in school] now because he sees his mom learning. I think he wants to learn as much as he can now, because I told him about getting an education.”
- “The school used to call every day, but now our child is doing well. [Family literacy] has really changed him. Now, he likes school, and school likes him.”
- “It’s a great program. It made me feel good about myself. People said it was impossible for me to succeed in life because I only finished 8th grade, but the Even Start staff believed in me.”
- “Although this program might just start out helping a parent and a child, it soon spreads to the entire family. Family literacy has taught everyone in my family the importance of reading.”