



PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS ON THE IMPACT OF EVEN START PROGRAMS

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.”