



A Journey to School Readiness ... A Young Mom and Family

To meet Ady is to envision a determined and positive future for generations to come. What I noticed first was her beautiful and engaging smile. She was so excited to talk about her lovely family. This is her story.

Ady is a successful student who enjoyed school. In the 9th grade, Ady became pregnant and she dropped out of school. The pregnancy strained family relationships and Ady knew she had to do everything to have a healthy baby. She remained focused on preparing for the impending birth. A year after giving birth to her son, Ady became pregnant a second time. By age 22 she had 3 children and her plans of going back to school slipped further and further away.

Ady says she cannot imagine her life without her children. She loves them dearly and at times she wonders, *“Am I the best mom I can be? Am I giving each child enough individual attention? Can I give them each what they need?”*

When one of Ady’s children entered preschool, she found an incredible support system at Brett Tarver Early Learning Center in the Isaac School District. Taking advantage of multiple trainings, workshops and programs, including Stepping Stones, Ady earned a preschool scholarship for her 4 year old daughter. She also attended the School Readiness Parent Workshop through Valley of the Sun United Way.

Ady is attending GED prep classes four times a week, in spite of the fact that she is only required to attend twice a week. Linda Washington, Director of Early Childhood Learning says of Ady, *“She is a leader. Through collective efforts of people and programs, we are able to support families and transform lives. It truly takes the community.”*

When Ady was asked what keeps her motivated, she quickly responded, *“It’s my family, my son. It may sound simple to some, but when he hugs me and says, ‘You are the best mom,’ I know I have to keep going.”* Her advice to others is, *“It’s not easy. It will take time and dedication. There were many times when I doubted myself but there are free resources and people who want to help.”*

“Make the choice to grow.”

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UNITE AGAINST THE CYCLE.

