

March 14, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:



When sisters Alison and Chloe first started visiting Kid Time Children's Museum both were struggling developmentally. Alison was antisocial and quiet, often letting others speak for her. During group activities she would play at the periphery or cling to a teacher's hand. Her older sister, Chloe, grappled with change and a lack of balance and gross motor skills, so much so that she



often tripped and fell.

Thanks to the Bus Is Us program, a collaborative effort funded through and supported by Southern Oregon Early Learning Services (SOELS), our early learning hub, the girls visited Kid Time on a regular basis, exploring exhibits and participating in programs. In just two short months both children showed remarkable progress. Alison now participates fully in group activities. Her vocabulary has grown and she is now interacting with peers and teachers so comfortably that she occasionally leads sing-alongs! At the same time Chloe is learning to navigate change – specifically, shifting between classes – after teachers introduced singing during transitions. And thanks to a movement class she is now literally finding her balance.

The sisters are not unique. They, like many Southern Oregon children, lack the resources and opportunity to explore their world and their abilities in a safe, nurturing, environment. Were it not for Kid Time's Bus is Us program neither would

even have had the option to participate in high quality instructed Kid Time programs with the kind of consistency necessary to lead to such growth.

Kid Time's Learning Loft Preschool is a Preschool Promise site, serving 33 students. Many of these students live in very distressed situations and depend on Preschool Promise for more than just school readiness. The following example is just one family that will have a lasting benefit from this program:

My name is MaryAnn Landry. I am the single mother of two amazing boys. I have Samuel who is my four year old, and I have Sebastian, who turned one last August.

I have not always been a single mother. My children's father and I were married and, I believe, extremely happy. But last February, our lives changed forever. Sebastian was having a lot of medical issues. After multiple trips to the doctor we were flown to Portland where Sebastian had to have emergency brain surgery. I think what is worse than your infant needing brain surgery is finding out his father is the reason it happened.

Sebastian's surgery was successful and he is healing, recovering, and meeting all of his age appropriate milestones. Samuel, however, has had a difficult time emotionally with not understanding why he doesn't have a father anymore and why his dad is in jail. Samuel's heartache speaks through his actions and his need to tell everyone that his father is in jail for hurting his brother.

Samuel turned 5 in December so, unfortunately, he wasn't able to attend school this year. I applied to Southern Oregon Head Start, however Samuel was not able to obtain placement within their program. I also applied to the Family Nurturing Center however they did not have any availability, either.

I was able to obtain ERDC and the boys spent a few months with a private daycare. Unfortunately, due to some unforeseen circumstances, my daycare had to close and the boys needed alternative options.

Then we found Kid Time and were awarded scholarships – for a museum membership and for Samuel to attend The Learning Loft Preschool through Preschool Promise. He is very smart, imaginative, creative, emotional, caring, and ready to learn, and he is blossoming in a structured learning environment where he is able to express himself and not have to dwell on his sad thoughts.

With 2016 our lives were turned and twisted into roads that I never thought would be imaginable. My boys are the light of my life and I work hard to support them however, being a

single parent is difficult. If it weren't for the Kid Time scholarships we would have no other options.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

MaryAnn Hendry

Thank you for considering these, and stories like these while making decisions regarding funding for early childhood education.

Sincerely,

Shannon Young Roberts
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