

Carlisle Early Education Center

At Carlisle Early Education Center (CEEC), we have many families that come to us with the need of quality childcare, that are not eligible for other funding resources for one reason or another. They may be on the wait list, they do not qualify, or they cannot find steady employment due to lack of childcare. A mother came to us saying that that she needed childcare for her two children in order to find a full-time job. She was not eligible for government funding due to the fact that neither she nor her husband had full-time jobs. She explained that she had two special-needs children, and it was so hard to take care of their family on little to no income. Her husband was a contractor and didn't have steady jobs. She wanted so badly to be able to have her children in quality care. Her husband did not have the skill set to provide the education or experiences that her special needs children both needed. Since they were not in a child care facility, neither parent could work, creating a financial strain.

Within the week of enrolling the children, she was able to get a full-time job in her field. He husband was able to have the flexible schedule that a contractor needed, and the children were able to receive the quality care they needed. Both children had specialists that came to the classroom each week. These specialists were able to partner with the teachers to provide special guidance the children both needed to develop. When the children enrolled in the program, the preschool-aged child did not speak. Her speech was so delayed that she grunted to express what she wanted, speaking in mostly blended vowel sounds. It was very hard for anyone, even her parents, to understand her. Her brother, who was a young toddler, was not walking like the other children his age. He army-crawled to move around the classroom.

With the combination of quality care from our CEEC teachers and the specialists that came to our school, the children developed over time and now the preschooler who grunted to speak, speaks in complete sentences and is understood by her family, teachers and her peers. She has been able to form many relationships with friends and teachers. Her brother, who did not walk, is now running, climbing, jumping and being very active, like all the other children his age. Both children have become very special members of our CEEC family. The children will continue to learn and grow over the years, eventually leaving our school and making even more developmental achievements. They will look back at CEEC as their preschool, maybe remembering teachers, fun experiences and friends. We will remember them as a success story provided by the United Way scholarship program.