



JULY
2015

KYFS CONNECTION

A Newsletter from Kent Youth and Family Services

From **hope**, to **change**.

Evan

Last year in class I had a boy named Evan. He is the only child of a woman who never really desired having children. Mom is a very caring woman and has embraced motherhood as best as she can.

Evan, at the age of four, weighed 89 pounds. Due to some lack of confidence associated with weight, he was standoffish and did not socialize with his peers. By November's Parent/Teacher conference, mom was beginning to question where her son was socially and emotionally in comparison to the rest of the kids in his age group. In class, we had been discussing "just for fun food" vs. healthy options. During our conference, mom and I discussed serving size and body mass index.

By January, Evan was making statements along the line, "I think my stomach is comfortable" and "I think I'll let my body rest and think about what it wants." By the end of February, Evan was running and playing with the other children. By March, Evan had developed four close friendships. He was sharing his skills with confidence and his peers adored him for it.

During our last conference with mom, she stated that she was amazed at all of Evan's growth and how far he had come out of his shell. With all of the work my family support staff did with his mom, she was able to connect on a deeper level with her child and we could see changes in her, as well.

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Your Child Is Watching

Last fall I had a family in my class, the child was a three year old girl on an IEP. She was quiet and often did not want to come to school. Mom continued to bring her every day, despite her screaming and crying. After a few weeks, the child came to school without a problem and started to talk quietly to me. Every day at lunch, she would sit by me. One day at lunch, she really opened up and told me something she had heard her mom say at home. At the parent teacher conference, I shared this with her mom. She said, "I did not realize that she was listening or even understood what I was talking about."

To read more of this story, please visit: <http://kentyouthandfamily.blogspot.com/>

Elizabeth, Our Granddaughter

Christmas of 2012, Elizabeth's mother dropped her off at our house for what would be her first real family Christmas.

Elizabeth was 12 years old.

We hadn't seen or heard from either of them in about 6 years. Little did we know then, but Elizabeth's mom was dealing with issues in her own life. Battling her own demons, she did not come back for her daughter. Shocked and filled with a sense of responsibility, we contacted and worked with Child Protective Services in an effort to gain legal custody of her. As we celebrated this victory, we learned of her mother's passing.

To read more of this story, please visit: <http://kentyouthandfamily.blogspot.com/>

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