



Cristina Guajardo, 42, Austin (child care)

There was so many transitions when we moved here. He was only three months; he was little, but I think he still knew that something had changed, you know children are very smart.

I remember that people talked about the waiting list, that it was one or two years long, and so when everything changed for me and I had to start thinking about daycare and going back to school and when I was just going through that transition, I didn't know what I was going to be able to do because if I had to wait two years then there was no way I could plan starting school at a certain time if I couldn't line up the daycare piece, and so that was a really scary time.

There were so many things I was looking for but the Jeremiah program was one of the first things I found, and so I was really blessed that way because it had everything. So it's a creative curriculum, and they are getting all the children ready for when they have to start kindergarten, so that makes me feel really good that he's learning, I'm learning, we're both in school and we're both going through this journey together.

When everything first happened, I had to apply for food stamps, I had to look for health care, and all of those appointments, I had to take him with me. I didn't have anybody to leave him with. So sometimes when I look back and I'm sitting down doing an assignment or I'm at work, I look back at that and that would have been impossible for me without child care. There's no way that I would have been able to go on with my day, concentrate at work, or concentrate with my homework if I didn't know that he was safe and cared for.