



*A look back at our year.....*

MISS RUBY'S KIDS  
Every Child Deserves An Equal Start



# Miss Ruby's Kids, creating successful futures.

In July of 2020, at the age of 2 ½, Jordan entered the ParentChild + Program at Miss Ruby's Kids. At that time, Jordan could not speak at all. She could not even murmur the word, mama. As per standard protocol with any new enrollee, our Early Learning Specialist, Lisset, conducted an ASQ-3 which stands for Ages & Stages Questionnaire. As a screening instrument used by early educators and health professionals, the ASQ-3 was designed to measure a child's developmental progress between the ages of one month to 5 ½ years; however, the success of this screening tool relies heavily upon full parental participation.

Upon completing and scoring the ASQ-3, it was evident Jordan needed to be referred to a professional for further assessment. Jordan's mom also revealed that Jordan was already on a waitlist for a speech evaluation. With the help and intervention of Miss Ruby's Kids, Jordan's mom was able to move up the waitlist and obtain a quicker appointment. This proved to be crucial. Further testing was administered by her therapist and doctor, and Jordan was ultimately diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

It has been said that ASD can sometimes be detected at an early age, but many children do not receive a formal diagnosis until they are much older. As one might imagine, the dangers in such a delay would mean a child, adolescent, or adult with ASD might not receive the benefits of early intervention supports and services to help them reach their true and full potential.

We are happy and grateful to report, such is not the case for Jordan. Now in the middle of her second year at Miss Ruby's Kids, Jordan is speaking, participating & counting, and even knows her colors! Each is a milestone worthy of celebration!

## Letter from Natasha Brockington, Executive Director

It is estimated that over 300 two and three-year-olds live at or below the poverty level in Georgetown County. In a typical year, Miss Ruby's Kids serves well over 100 children through our ParentChild+, Family Child Care, Mentoring programs, and Little Ruby's Libraries. Yet, we need to do more. The knowledge that there are children in our community who don't receive education services until they enter school is alarming.

The need for early childhood education services has always been prevalent. This past year has shown us why it's imperative for children to have access to early childhood education services. In a time where isolation, uncertainty, and anxiety are rampant, the consistent support that our families receive from both staff and volunteers provides a lifeline to prevent erosion of knowledge and a connection to the community and its resources.

Your generous support of Miss Ruby's Kids has made it so that we are a staple in the community and a viable option for those seeking our services. As we move forward in our new normal of offering a hybrid of in-person and virtual visits, we still aim to provide the area's most vulnerable population with the books, educational toys, and learning experiences that are so desperately needed.

**One hundred bright and eager students in the program today await your response.  
As we make plans for growth and expansion, please make us a priority as you decide your  
charitable contributions before year-end!**