

Mike Petters:

What if we put two puzzles together?

Mike Petters:

Things have changed a lot. It was, if you put your kids in daycare, that was kind of looked down upon, that the right way to raise your kids was to raise them at home. There's so much development that goes on in a kid by the time they're five years old, the science around brain development has completely transformed that public opinion.

Lucy:

I draw that.

Mike Petters:

You did.

Sarah Gorman:

With our kids, we've seen that being able to put them in a good, solid, early education program, it really helps them as they move forward. They get those building blocks early, they get to establish routines, learn the social aspects of school, all of those things. And then also just get the firm foundation and the arithmetic, ABCs, colors, all of that.

Sean Mercer:

Early education is very important because early development shapes and molds the child, and prepares them for life and everything that life throws at them.

Nikki Keim:

Both of my children have actually been going since they were two and a half to the same school, and they had a curriculum when they first started out, started reading and they're doing their numbers and stuff like that very early. It builds a great foundation for a great lifetime of learning for them.

Mario Holloway:

I look at it as giving my child a jump start. I noticed from my first son, he was very advanced when we switched him over to public schools, and trying to give my youngest son the same opportunity.

Julie Kennedy:

So my daughter Ezzy, she got the scholarship this past year and it has made just such a huge difference in her education. My older son, Nicholas, received the scholarship in 2017. It opened up a whole new door for him.

Nicholas:

Ezzy really likes her new preschool, and she really, really wants to go today.

Julie Kennedy:

She does. She's super excited, huh?

Nicholas:

Yeah.

Mike Petters:

That's a hard hat. We wear these at work to keep our heads safe. Would you like one?

Mike Petters:

You're going to have to learn to be successful. There's lots of things that become roadblocks that make it harder to do for some people. If we can knock down some of those roadblocks, we're going to unleash a part of our society that we've never really been able to take advantage of.

Sean Mercer:

It's life-changing and eye-opening. Things that the world has to offer, and she could be a part of it? That's major.

Mike Petters:

I'm really proud of the progress that we've made, getting the business community behind early childhood development and diversity inclusion. It turns out there's a real connection between these two things. We're investing in not just our business, we're investing in our communities.

Mike Petters:

So are you guys ready to go back to school again?

Lucy:

Yeah.

Sarah Gorman:

Our family would just like to take the time to thank Mr. Petters and Huntington Ingalls Industries for the scholarship that they've been able to provide for Peter and for Lucy, and for all that is done for our family and for our children's future.

Julie Kennedy:

I just really appreciate having the opportunity to get the scholarship, and to be able to have it for both of my kids. It's just been such a blessing, and I'm just so thankful and appreciative for that.