

TAMETRIA & ANDY DANTZLER



TAMETRIA AND ANDY'S STORY

As parents to 4-year-old Conner, who has autism, the Dantzlers struggled to find quality child care centers that had trained staff equipped to care for children with special needs. Tametria, a former TV news anchor/reporter, is now an advocate for children with autism and has started D.A.T.S. M.O.M., an online parent support network equipping parents to turn their child's disability into an ability toward success.

She is currently serving in an Alabama governor-appointed position as the parent representative for the Alabama Early Intervention System Interagency Coordinating Council. In this role, her goal is to help ensure Alabama children have proper access to early intervention and early childhood programs. The Dantzlers are also advocates for inclusion of minority parents in the early care and educational policy processes. Many minority fathers aren't included in the process and feel they don't have a voice. Andy hopes that by stepping up to the plate without fear and rejection, he will encourage other fathers who look like him to do the same.

CHILD CARE STATS IN AL

There are 218,813 children under the age of 6 in Alabama who could be in need of child care.

The cost of infant care in Alabama is almost twice the annual cost of college tuition at a four year college.

Millennial parents in Alabama on average spend 27.3% of their income on center-based child care for one infant.

Congressional Requests: 2018

Provide a \$1 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in FY 2019. These new funds will help hundreds of thousands of low-income children gain access to high-quality care and help states better meet the needs of families.

Co-sponsor the Child Care for Working Families Act. This legislation would more than double the number of children eligible for assistance under CCDBG, and support the child care workforce.

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