

SHERRY SMITH



SHERRY'S STORY

Sherry Smith knows what can happen for a family when they are able to afford accessible, high-quality child care opportunities for their children. When her youngest of six daughters turned two years old, she found a great child care center for her to attend.

Her daughter benefitted from the early learning activities and care she received there, so much so that Sherry would tell others that it was the only place their children should go as well! She was worried her daughter might have struggled once she entered elementary school were it not for the purpose and learning she gained in her child care program.

Sherry herself was able to join that amazing child care staff after a year, and worked with a mentor who encouraged her to further her knowledge in the early education field. She stayed there for 22 years, working in early education until her retirement. Not only did

her youngest daughter attend the center, but seven of her grandchildren did as well. Sherry hopes to see improved interactions between providers and parents, more play-based learning for children, and higher compensation and support for those educators who excel in their field.

CHILD CARE IN ARKANSAS

- A single parent in Arkansas spends 33% of their income for center-based infant care.
- Married parents of two children living at the poverty line pay 49.1% of their household income for center-based child care.
- The cost of infant care in Arkansas is nearly the same as the annual cost of tuition at a four year state college.

2019 CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST

Provide a \$5 billion increase to FY 2020 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding to ensure more children and families gain access to high-quality, affordable, and safe child care.