

"I'm a mother. I fight for my kids. I'm their advocate. I'm there to discipline you when you do wrong...but I also know the temperament of my child."

- Olivia , Family Focus participant

Olivia's Story

"I was homeless at 18 and I was adopted and I was in foster care. My best is only what I've seen and what I've seen isn't really good at all. It's hard for me to unlearn that behavior. I was doing the same that was done to me. And I was trying to change, but you can't really unlearn behavior unless you learn something new. A counselor suggested I take parenting classes at Family Focus."

"I was going through a lot of stuff with my children. My daughter Sydney was really challenging. At school, they diagnosed her with ADHD and wanted to put her on medication. I wasn't ok with that. I felt like I had to make a decision. And that meant that I was really going to have to focus in on my daughter. Because I was able to talk to the people at Family Focus with the right resources, I was able to get my daughter in private school. I was able to look for scholarships. The first year was hard for us but the second year she was able to get funding. "



"Sydney changed. She did a '180' because I was able to focus on her. So I would have medicated my daughter for no reason. She needed something different. That made me feel like I would have ruined her if I had subjected myself to being frustrated as a parent and not being able to come to somebody and be able to talk to them, and be honest, because it's embarrassing. It's embarrassing to say, "I don't have this, my kid is doing this," and have somebody judge you and judge your kid on that."

"My daughter is twelve now. She's never been on medication. She still has behavior issues, but it's manageable. And potentially my daughter could graduate next year. She's a math whiz. If I wasn't able to focus on her, and be responsible as a parent, I would never have know it. She still does stuff. I still get calls. But I'm a mother. I fight for my kids. I'm their advocate. I'm there to discipline you when you do wrong...but I also know the temperament of my child."

"My daughter surprises me all the time, and I believe that it all started from me being able to come here, being able to get what I needed as a mother, for her to be able to get what she needed as a child so that I could be better for her. My best wasn't good enough. I had to learn new things to make me the best. And so I was able to get that here."