

Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living

Success Story for Developmental Disabilities Services: Supporting a Parent to Raise her Daughter at Home

My name is Tanya and I have a 17-month-old daughter named Payton whom I love dearly and feel so grateful that I am in a shared living environment where I am able to successfully parent her.

Before moving in with my current shared living provider, Pam, my life was unstable sometimes living with parents and at other times living with friends only on a



temporary basis – moving from one to the other. I had tried living with a shared living provider a few years ago when my other two daughters were in DCF custody and then adopted. I had my emotions to deal with and being in a shared living environment was not for me at that time.

Four months before the birth of my daughter Payton, I moved in with Pam, my current shared living provider. Living with Pam gives me a secure home with the ability to raise my daughter. Pam helps me when I am frustrated and helps me develop my parenting skills. She helps me by giving me reminders to remember

where Payton is and to focus on her safety. Pam has also helped me to get to the point where I can help prepare healthy meals for all in the home while still paying attention to my daughter.

I get to spend time with Payton in the community and work on directing her on how to be safe, helping her to interact with other children, being nice and I get to be a parent surrounded by other caring parents. Watching other parents make choices, (both good and bad), helps me to be a better parent and make better choices for myself. Going to story time and other community events with my daughter along with my supports not only helps me with parenting skills but it also gives my daughter a chance to play with other kids, too. Having access to counseling and people to talk to about my life and whatever the ball throws at me has been helpful. Coming up with a weekly and monthly plan for my time out in the community has been helpful because it helps me to know what's going on day to day and how every day and each activity connects to my goals.