

Micah's Story



At 11 months old Micah's mother, Shauna noticed that the typical emotional bond that children develop with their mothers was lacking. While it was too early to diagnose Micah with Autism, Shauna and her husband Thomas were determined to get her son the tools he needed to succeed. **Micah's Developmental Therapist recommended taking Micah out of his home daycare and enrolling him in a program that incorporated early intervention and therapy would support his growth and development.**

After much discussion and hesitation Micah's parents decided Learning Together's inclusion program was the right choice for their son. Micah came to Learning Together's Sweet Pea classroom when he was 16 months old. **Micah had been in occupational and speech therapy since he was 15 months old and Learning Together allowed his therapy services to come to school to work with Micah, which Shauna and Thomas says was monumental in his progression.** "You pray that your child is in the hands of the same

type of people that care for him as you do, and whose hearts are as big as yours." According to Micah's parents, **Learning Together's strength, is the way that it takes care of families as much as it students which was an unexpected addition to the services that Learning Together provides.**

When Micah turned two he was diagnosed with Autism, which allowed him to receive services through the Wake County Public School System. After touring other school programs in Wake County, Shauna knew that he was right where he was supposed to be. Micah moved into the Daisy Class where he could receive services in a smaller structured learning environment. Micah's parents feel **"the love, guidance, and structure that Micah has received at Learning Together are invaluable. You don't find a place where you get all of that."** Thomas and Shauna give credit to Micah's teacher, Mr. Charles. She says "the best part about him staying is Mr. Charles; this man has a heart for what he does, and a passion for helping children with special needs." Mr. Charles has been monumental in individualizing Micah's educational program while collaborating with Micah's parents so that his progress carries over from school to home.

"It takes a village to raise a child. Micah's progression has been influenced by the village at Learning Together; teachers, therapists, and those helping us through the overwhelming IEP process have guided us through every step of his progress and needs," Shauna says. "To go from having a nonverbal child to one who is singing every Christmas song during the holidays has been amazing"

Thomas and Shauna's hope for Micah is that he be as independent and self-sufficient as possible. "Micah will know that he has autism, but our goal as parents is to give him a solid foundation so that he's able to survive and cope in this world." Micah's parents **say Learning Together has set this foundation which will help Micah become independent.**

Learning Together has been proud to serve children like Micah and has family for over 40 years, creating a community of promise where children of all abilities are able to reach their full potential with the support of their communities and family.