



WATCH THE VIDEO



Meet Sampson



Empowering independence through school readiness.

When he was four years-old, Sampson began attending **Ready for School, Ready to Succeed**, United Way of the Capital Region's school readiness initiative. Through the program, education liaisons provide workshops to prepare children academically and socially for kindergarten.

Sampson's family lives in Perry County. His mother Emily feels fortunate to have access to early education programming in their rural community. She participates in the workshops with Sampson as often as possible.

Earlier this year, Emily became concerned over Sampson's speech and addressed this with Amanda

Negley, education liaison for West Perry School District.

"It was difficult to understand him because his words came out very garbled," Emily says. "I knew there was a problem, and I didn't know what to do."

Amanda immediately connected Emily with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit where Sampson met with a speech therapist. The therapist recommended Sampson see his physician who diagnosed him with a severe ear infection. The compression of fluid was impacting his ability to hear clearly.

After taking an antibiotic, Sampson's hearing and speech began to

improve. He became more confident communicating during the workshops.

Emily is grateful for the immediate assistance she received with Sampson's speech issue along with the consistent educational programming through the workshops. Sampson is now attending Pre-K Counts and is doing great thanks to his experiences with **Ready for School, Ready to Succeed**.

"I have gotten to see Sampson grow, mature and learn through this program," Emily says. "It has been wonderful to have this opportunity. I'm so thankful."

For more information, contact United Way of the Capital Region at 717.732.0700 or visit uwcr.org.

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