

HOMETOWN HERO:

Francoise Nelson

“Fran inspires us because she does not see limits for our son. We know how fortunate we are to have an aide for our son who cares so deeply about his development and his future.”

We would like to nominate Francoise Nelson as a Hometown Hero for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Anne Arundel County. Fran has served as an aide to our three year-old son with autism in his regular preschool class for the past eight months. We feel so very blessed that he has her there to support and encourage him.

Fran is so dedicated to the work she does with our son. She has received training on the techniques of applied behavior analysis and she uses this knowledge to keep our son on track during preschool. Through her training and experience, she has been able to persuade our son to participate in all of the classroom activities. Each day, Fran helps our son process sensory stimuli in order to participate in the art projects and creative activities of the class.

Fran has tirelessly worked to teach our son how to successfully interact with other children both in the classroom and on the playground. She never misses an opportunity to help him make a connection with another child. He is now occasionally initiating interactions with peers on his own. We know this success has only come after months of intense redirection from Fran.

When our son behaves in challenging ways that are difficult to overcome, Fran never gives up on him. She is consistently thinking about other ways she can teach him. She tells us about a challenge she is having with him; and often, by the next day, she has figured out what is causing the behavior and what she can do to help him work through it.

Fran inspires us because she does not see limits for our son. We know how fortunate we are to have an aide for our son who cares so deeply about his development and his future. For all of these reasons, Francoise Nelson is a Hometown Hero for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders!