

The Gazette EMPTY STOCKING FUND



This is one of a series of stories about the nonprofit agencies that receive money from The Gazette/El Pomar Foundation Empty Stocking Fund campaign that runs through the holidays.

Before Community Partnership for Child Development, Victoria Hering's son didn't talk or socialize much. He never wanted to sit down and focus on learning.

"You tried to teach him his letters and his attention would go right out the window," Hering said.

She and her husband found CPCD as an alternative to daycare, which was going to cost too much money.

CPCD provides over 2,000 children with an education through collaboration with the community to with children and their families.

The program transformed her son, Hering said.

Related: **EMPTY STOCKING: YMCA's outreach programs give clients a sense of family** (<http://gazette.com/empty-stocking-ymcas-outreach-programs-give-clients-a-sense-of-family/article/1566582>)

"Within a couple weeks, he came home telling us about letters, telling us about numbers," she said. They began going to the library and her son's social skills developed much more quickly than she expected. He learned much more than what was necessary for kindergarten, and she said he loves using big words.

"He absorbed so much more than we thought he would have in such a short amount of time," she said. "Obviously they have amazing teachers. My son absolutely loves his teachers."

CPCD also was a constant in her son's life when his father, a Fort Carson soldier, deployed. Hering said the teachers helped create a sense of patterns and routines for the boy.

"They really take into consideration the individual child, and not just the group as a whole," she said. "I think the whole concept of it is amazing."

She said CPCD makes the whole process very easy, and it gave her son a new direction.

"We assumed our son would struggle in education, and we came out with a five-year-old completely ready for school," Hering said.

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