

In the KSSLA forums, participants are shown a video that tells a tough but compelling story about resilience and how early childhood educators can have a profound effect upon young children experiencing difficult home situations. Keidy Compton could teach a class on resilience and how to overcome traumatic events to achieve success and happiness.

Keidy is the 38 year old owner of “Keidy’s Home Day Care” in Radcliff, Kentucky which she operates out of her home. Keidy and her 18 year old son look after eight toddler aged children in a bright, cheerful learning environment.

Keidy did not start out looking to operate a child care facility but circumstances and challenges changed her life. She grew up in Puerto Rico and came to the United States after meeting her husband who was in the military. They had two sons but the relationship didn’t work out and suddenly Keidy found herself having to care for her children. She began working at a bank, and eventually met and married her current husband Richard.

Life was looking up but in a very short period of time, Keidy lost her job, Richard was laid off and they eventually lost their home. Keidy was pregnant by then and her son was born two months premature. He needed a lot of care so Keidy decided that she was going to open a child care facility and through perseverance and financial help she opened her business in 2010.

Keidy’s Home Day Care is set in her cheerful living room and kitchen/family room where I saw four very happy and bubbly toddlers play, show off their toys and nap. Keidy is very organized – she admits to being maybe a bit “too” obsessed with organization – but it helps her keep things on track.

Understanding that continuing education is key to a successful business, Keidy was delighted when she saw the KSSLA application and was accepted into the program.

Sara York, Keidy’s KSSLA mentor, said Keidy was one of the most enthusiastic and sincere participants she’d met. “All of my participants have been lovely, but there’s a special spark with Keidy. She asks so many questions, loves to work on her leadership plan and texts and calls me with ideas all of the time.”

Keidy believes that “the more I know, the better I can be for my kids. I want to be the best and do anything I can do to develop professionally and KSSLA has given me real skills that I am using every day.”

Being part of KSSLA has helped Keidy recognize the personalities of her children she cares for and how they process information and react to instruction. “True Colors has been an extraordinary tool in helping me improve communication with the kids and their parents. I’ve even shared ideas with moms and dads about the color spectrum and how to better interact with their little ones.”

Working on her Leadership Plan led Keidy to plan a “Math Night” with her parents and children where they will see and participate in the math based activities she provides during the day. “Even though I send videos and pictures to our parents all day long, I want them to experience their child’s daily routine and see the teaching I am providing. Sara helped me develop this idea and I am very excited about it and will plan more.”

Keidy said KSSLA has been one of the best programs she has ever participated in and is grateful for the ideas and networking she’s gained. She is working on her CDA and is looking to go back to school to get a degree in early childhood interdisciplinary education.

“To see this young woman so happy about our program and the hard work she’s put into it has been a thrill for me,” said Sara. “I think when we look back in on Keidy in a few years we’ll be overwhelmed by the incredible progress and growth she will have achieved.”