

HELP FOR GOOD

Tay'A



Stark County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities



Tay'A

Meet 12-year old Tay'A Jones, a student at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School.

According to her mom, Ambrosine Blancaneaux, Tay'A is passionate about people she loves. "She is very affectionate!"

Prior to attending RS Southgate School, Tay'A attended Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center for preschool. According to Tammy Maney, preschool director, Tay'A was referred to Stark DD services by her school district, Canton City Schools. A diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder and ADHD followed.

"We saw progress once she got the hang of [Picture Exchange Communication System](#) (PECS) to communicate," said Tammy. The Picture Exchange Communication System, or PECS, allows people with little or no communication abilities to communicate using pictures.

"She carried her PECs book with her everywhere and used it to communicate her wants and needs throughout the school. It was almost like a security blanket for her... it was great to see her progress," said Tammy.

Tay'A's strengths and talents are she is observant, and a visual learner. 'She is willing to try new things, an explorer, motivated and determined," said Ambrosine.

"Stark DD has helped with Tay'A's independence, by communicating, helping with social skills, motor skills and everyday routine as a typical kid," said Ambrosine.

Stark DD Intervention Specialist Jill Doud describes Tay'A as a very sweet



and fun individual! "She enjoys coming to school every day. She has become very independent in the past two years at school," said Jill.

"Tay'A uses a communication device to speak on a daily basis. She uses it during circle time, and group time lessons, to request her wants/needs and during one-on-one work time," said Jill. "She is such a hard worker when she is at school and loves to follow a daily routine."

"Tay'A likes to give hugs and high fives especially to her teachers in the classroom. She has made many great improvements in school and we are so proud of her!!!"

Tay'A's dreams for the future are to be independent! Tay'A has overcome her behavior for the most part by showing more patience.

