

Vivian Donahue, a mother of two; ages three and four years old was so excited to share her story and her experience with the Family Support/Child Development program on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

A little over a year ago, Vivian confided that she was frustrated and concerned because her little ones were having behavioral problems and frequent tantrums. She said it was difficult because she didn't understand what they wanted.

She reached out to the Home Based Educational program, a service that is offered through the Division of Special Needs, a program funded by First Things First. Home visitation service provides family support services that focus on child health and development, positive parenting and early education. Home visits are designed to give parents the tools they need to help their children get ready for kindergarten. She was immediately connected with Monica K. Morgan, A Maternal and Child Health Advocate. "Monica was wonderful! She explained that the children were frustrated, just like me, because they were unable to communicate. I didn't understand my kids and they didn't understand me." Donahue was surprised because only after several visits the children were able to sign basic baby sign language; which made communicating much easier, cutting down the tantrums and outbursts. The home visits also taught them simple games to play to encourage language development, and build an interest in reading. "My children enjoy reading now, and I try to get as many books for them, as I can." Donahue said with a smile.

The children are now enrolled in the Head Start-Jump Start program and doing extremely well. She said she "Highly recommends" the home visitation program to any parents with children 0-five.