

## **AACS Early Head Start**

In December 2019 an almost 2-year-old named Ben enrolled in one of our Early Head Start classrooms. Upon enrollment the teachers worked together with the private pay spot teachers to complete a smooth transition. Ben needed some assistance to be mobile due to he was in a hard body cast that covered his trunk. This was due to severe scoliosis and Loeyditiz Syndrome. The cast was a difficult challenge for not only mobility but it also caused pressure that caused Ben to be ill at times. The teacher worked with the therapist to set up an environment that assisted him but also encouraged his will to be independent. Ben continues to be enrolled in Early Head Start and continues to amaze us all. He no longer has the cast and continues to progress leaps and bounds in his very active play. Ben has figured out how to use self-help skills when standing up from a seated position and his favorite activity is jumping. Another part of this story is that Ben was in foster placement with family and a family friend. Ben's mom was completing a residential substance abuse program. Mom completed the program and continues to participate in our Head Start parent trainings. Mom now has Ben full time. They have their own home and mom continues to reach out for support from family. The Early Head Start program has been a true-life changer for the family.