

Learning Together Profile – Amber



"I Want to Go to College"

Amber is a teenage mother who participates in **Learning Together** at the Parent Child Center. She is determined to make her life a positive example for her little girl. "I want to go to college," she says – "so when my daughter grows I can prove to her that even though I got pregnant at a young age, you can still do something with your life."

Amber was 16 when she got pregnant. A good student, she'd been taking honors courses and wanted to stay in school – but high school no longer felt like the right place for a teenage parent. "In regular high school, nobody knows what you're going through, how you're feeling," Amber says. "Here, everybody is so appreciative. They are so willing to get to know you, and if you want to tell them something, they're so willing to listen."

Learning Together participants spend weekdays at the Parent Child Center, placing their children in childcare as needed. During the mornings they learn job skills at a series of center worksites:

- The Kitchen, serving PlayWorks Child Center as well as staff and **Learning Together** Participants
- The Infant and Toddler rooms at PlayWorks Child Center
- The reception/clerical desk
- Myrtle's Closet, the center's Thrift Store

"Working in the infant room, they taught me a lot about how to take care of my daughter," Amber recalls. "When I worked in the toddler room, they taught me how to get kids to listen to you, and what to do when they do something wrong."

Each afternoon the moms work together, guided by a teacher, to reach their high school diploma or other educational goals. Amber often helps other **Learning Together** moms with their school projects. To earn her diploma as soon as possible, she's also working with Vermont Adult Learning.

Looking beyond college, she thinks she might like to become a photographer. "I love to take pictures," she says. "It would be a good job to have."

