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I was diagnosed with autism December 2019. I’m now working with therapists from Family Path and MMSD. I also have a play teacher who plays with me and brings me toys and books to help me with my learning. (Aiden)

My favorite subject is math. I like all the different strategies in math. I know if I keep working on it, I’ll be good at it. I’m in 5th grade. (Ka’Trionna)

We have a very playful dog named Capone. He’s one year old. He loves the leaves and family walks. He chews toys up. (De-Aria and Ka-Trionna)

My favorite color is pink. I love dogs. I really like Disney princesses. (De-Aria)

I like to do gymnastics. I can do a backbend and cartwheels. I also have piranhas in my fish tank. (Aria)

I enjoy yoga and like to work out. I also cook, mostly desserts. (Janiah)

As a family, we love to bake and craft, and the holiday season is the best time for that. We made gingerbread houses together and the best part is eating them together! (Jonah, Ben, and Harrison)
I ride my bike daily. I go to the gas station with 59 cents to buy a honeybun. (Samuel)

I do not like hangers! (Solomon)

I got bullied at school by a fifth grade boy. (Saniya)

My birthday is sometimes the last day of spring and the first day of summer. (Stephen)

My favorite color is red. My favorite animal is a wolf. I like to play games and sports. (Antoine)

My favorite color is blue and my favorite animal is the tiger. I like to play video games. (Antonio)

I love dancing, painting, and jumping. (Rita)

I'm four years old. My favorite color is green. I want to be a fire fighter. I like to play with my toys or be on the computer. I clean the house and help my mom out. (Tristan)
Valentine’s Day is my favorite holiday because of chocolate! On Thanksgiving, the turkey took a long time to cook and my tummy was rumbling. I ate a lot of pie. I get happy when we celebrate holidays. 

(Lola)

I really like Christmas. I love to sing, eat cookies, watch holiday movies, and unwrap presents.

(Zacaria aka Cookie)

I’m in third grade. My favorite colors are blue and green. I like to go outside and play my Xbox. When I grow up, I want to be a pilot. I’d fly to Texas if I could. Math is my favorite subject. I’m a good gamer and a good singer. I’m the quiet one in my family.

(Emery)

My favorite color is pink. I really like to color. I like to hang out with my family and play games like “Guess Who?” I love to read books, especially the kind that teach you stuff. My favorite animal is the zebra.

(Trinity)

My favorite colors are pink and purple. My favorite seasons are winter and summer. I just turned 10 years old and hope to go to Urban Air to celebrate with pizza, cupcakes, and Kool-Aid. In my free time, I like to draw with my best friend. I really like to do math and play with my friends. My favorite movie is Mr. Peabody and Sherman.

(Cherish)
Gratitude Lists

Mommy
My great grandma
My grandma
My grandpa
Aunts
Uncles
Cousins
Sister
Stepsister
Stepbrother
Stepfather
Daddy
My two kitty cats
My house
My toys
My Amazon fire tablet
(Aiden)

My mom (Emery)

Books
Family
Holidays and the fact that Christmas is almost here
Water
The ability to eat whenever I want
Having my own room
Only girl/daughter
Alive
LOVE
Friends (Saniya)

Roof over my head
Food whenever I need it
New phone
My job
Family (James)
Being alive
Mom and Dad
Home
Food to eat
That I am very well taken care of
Siblings
My cat, Isabelle
Friends
Ability to go outside
Music
Bed
Being the oldest child
That I have responsibilities
That I have a job
Family (Samuel)

Life
Food
House
Roof
Basement
Kitchen
Dining room
Coach room
Living room
Front room
My own room
Isabelle
Entertainment like electronics (Solomon)

Having a bed to sleep in
A home to be safe in
Family
Pet cat, Isabelle
Food to eat
Having the ability and knowledge to cook and prepare food for myself and others
Having an amazing personality that is vibrant!
Clean water
Being able to go outside
Board games as an option when it’s time to unplug from electronics
Winter gear (Stephen)
Favorite Foods

Cheese pizza and ribs *(Aria)*

I like pizza. I really like pepperoni. I also like wings. *(Ka’Trionna)*

I like pepperoni pizza and strawberry ice cream. I love to get nuggets or burgers at McDonald’s too. *(De-Aria)*

Cheese pizza, sometimes pepperoni *(Naliyah)*

Cheese pizza *(Layla)*

Pizza from Pizza Hut with pepperoni and sausage *(Cherish)*

We look forward to Chinese take out night! As mom says, nothing beats a good bowl of chicken fried rice and some Crab Rangoon. *(Jonah and Ben)*

Pasta, especially spaghetti and meatballs *(Harrison)*

Popcorn *(Tristan)*

Broccoli and cheese and Sonic hot dogs *(Lola)*

Fruit, salads, and potatoes *(Kayd)*

Green beans, pies, and breads *(Kingston)*

Red grapes *(BB)*

Bacon and eggs *(Cookie)*

Chocolate and bacon *(Christina)*

Spaghetti, sushi, ramen, anything Asian *(Kahlíana)*

Sushi *(Karen)*
Hot chicken (Zachary, Zay’vion, and Yanayah)
Buffalo Chicken Sandwich from BB Jack’s (James)
Orange Chicken (Janiah)
Fried chicken tenders and French fries. My favorite fruit is strawberry. (Rita)
Fruit and chicken nuggets (Milani)
Chicken (Addie)
French fries. I like to get the supersize at McDonald’s. (Cavadion)
All my mom’s cooking including hot dogs, hamburgers, and fries (Trinity)

Seafood. I like to get the combo at Mad Seafood Boiler with crab, shrimp, potatoes, and corn. I also really like hot wings. (Jayda)
Chili’s the restaurant (Brian)
Macaroni (Nolan)
Corn dogs, mashed potatoes, and macaroni (Emery)

My favorite food is mashed potatoes, meatloaf with the dressing all around it. The drink on the side. Cut the meatloaf down the middle... it just falls apart. The gravy on top and drizzled all around the side is my favorite with my meatloaf. (Samuel)
Our Parents in Odyssey

I think it’s pretty cool my mom is in Odyssey and back in college because not many people can do that. My mom is kind, generous, caring, smart, and empathetic. We like to watch TV together. One of our favorite movies is The Wiz.

(James, Thedora’s son)

I think it’s great my mom was at Madison College, but being at the UW now is amazing. I’m happy for her.

(Janiah, Thedora’s daughter)

I think it’s really good for my mom to take classes and get back in school. She can reach all her goals. I love spending time with her on the weekends when she takes us to fun places like Urban Air or the store.

(Ka-Trionna, Cashae’s daughter)
My mother is in Odyssey and she LOVES it. She is going to school for business and getting credit towards her degree and graduation. She is so grateful she is being allowed to go back to school. My mother is GRATEFUL for kids, completing her homework, and her assignments. (Stephen, Sarah’s son)

I think it’s really nice my mom is in Odyssey this year. She left college when I was born. She’s more focused now and really keeping things together. I hope she can build up her business and be successful. (Kahliana, Feather’s daughter)

I feel good about my mom in Odyssey because I wish that she can have everything she needs and everything she wants. (Cherish, Stephaney’s daughter)
10-10-10

10 desires, 10 things you are grateful for, 10 things you love to do

Desires:
» continue to do well in school
» get better at dancing
» do the things I’ve been wanting to do when Covid ends
» learn a new language

Most Grateful For:
» family
» food
» a place to live
» jobs/money
» health

Things I Love To Do:
» spend time with my family
» travel
» go to concerts
» dance
» listen to music (Miraya)

Desires:
» Move to Korea
» Design video games
» Work on cars
» Save a lot of money
» Get a job I love
» Get another pet
» Move into an apartment
» Illustrate a book/manga
» Make a worldwide famous video game
» Speak at least 8 languages fluently

Most Grateful for:
» Friends
» Family
» Cars
» Video games
» Food
» Soccer
» Volleyball
» Energy drinks
» Food
» Anime

Things I Love to do:
» Play video games
» Sleep
» Eat food
» Learn new languages
» Play sports
» Binge anime
» Play music
» Pull all nighters
» Dance
» Photography (Kahliana)

Desires:
» Learn to drive
» Find a Job
» Complete all college-related things
» Eat healthier
» Work out a lot
» Figure out life’s career
» Focus on myself
» Become spiritual
» Learn to cook
» Become independent

Most Grateful For:
» My family
» My health
» My Friends
» God
» Myself
» My environment
» My accomplishments
» My knowledge
» My freedom
» My abilities and talents

Things I love to do:
» Watch Netflix
» Play basketball
» Play board games
» Play video games
» Get dressed and ready
» Sleep
» Eat
» Be peaceful
» Be productive
» Plan things out (Jayda)
**Courage**

Courage means “You got this!” It also means hopeful. I was brave when I held my friend Beauty’s hand on her first airplane flight to Atlanta. I have been on a plane ride before. *(Saniya)*

Courage means that I am brave. Take on my fears. I was brave to do the right thing when one person was slacking, and I did the work behind them. *(Samuel)*

My mom showed courage when she took someone in and helped them find a home. *(Janiah)*

When I was young, my mom showed courage by helping a relative from Chicago. She came to live with us, but soon was verbally abusive and used things without paying or caring about how much she used. My mom was brave when she made the relative leave our home. *(James)*

Courage means somebody I look up to. I was brave when I went to school in Africa and then America. I was in Nigeria and then I came to Wisconsin. I didn’t speak English and it was hard. Now, I speak three languages: African English, Ebo, and American English. *(Cherish)*
Preschoolers Zoom into Learning

Even Odyssey Junior children ages two to five have found ways to connect online this semester. Some have spent Monday and Wednesday mornings with Professor Jenny Saffran and her team of graduate students who are studying language development. Preschoolers who are missing out on play dates and playgrounds have enjoyed having a chance to talk to others, dance, sing, rhyme, and learn.
Odyssey Junior preschoolers have made objects out of the Play Doh and Wikki Stix that the Odyssey Project mailed to them, played "I Spy" on the screen, learned about the four seasons and weather, celebrated the colors of the rainbow, sampled musical instruments from the strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion sections of the orchestra, guessed everyday sounds like vacuum cleaners and flushing toilets, practiced movements like marching, skipping, and stretching, and read books together such as *The Snowy Day*, *Animal Boogie*, and *Everybody Goes on a Bear Hunt*. "Wow!" and "Cool!" and "I’m thankful for my classes" were some of the expressions overheard this fall.