

Tyrone, Mathews Promise Academy

Children who live in poverty face extra challenges. Tyrone was a kindergartener in our Mathews Promise Academy after-school program. When he began in August, staff noticed that he never brought any homework to complete. It was discovered that Tyrone would discard it before arriving at Open Door each day. The staff also discovered after conducting Tyrone's Reading Ability Screening that Tyrone was far behind. Tyrone was not able to count past the number five, or identify his capital or lower case letters except for "T." He was also unable to recognize his phonic sounds, identify his vowels and consonants or write his name. Because generous donors gave on Georgia Gives Day last year, and with the help of Mathews Promise Academy educational staff and curriculum, little by little, Tyrone improved. As his knowledge increased, so did his confidence. He proudly showed staff his homework and couldn't wait to do it every day. He finished kindergarten strong and was promoted to first grade.