



Second Year YouthWorks Participant 'Gives Back'

By Nancy Thibault

Rainbow Child Development Center



Tarik Octave sits with the Rainbow Child Development Center preschool children during a summer science presentation

Rainbow Child Development Center was very fortunate to have Tarik Octave work for the second consecutive summer at Rainbow Child Development Center's Preschool Program through the YouthWorks Program.

In May 2014, Tarik successfully completed his freshman year at Nichols College, a college of choice for business and leadership education. Tarik is a Business Major who is career-focused and exhibits leadership qualities both in and out of the classroom. During Tarik's freshman year, he studied intensely,

was active in a sports management group, and was impressed with his professor's expertise and passion for teaching. Tarik's favorite class was Effective Speaking, which helped him become comfortable and confident when speaking to audiences both large and small.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, Tarik remained cognizant that he'd need to work during the summer and applied to the YouthWorks Employment Program. He has an established history and firsthand experience with Rainbow Child Development Center's services and programs. Therefore, he was very comfortable returning to Rainbow to fill the Center's request for a Summer YouthWorks classroom assistant. Tarik had stated that he wished to "give back" to Rainbow because it served as a positive foundation of who he is today. Additionally, he "loves making a difference in kid's lives, even if it's small." Tarik shared that the "memories of working at Rainbow have changed him." This is a powerful statement and one that Rainbow is proud of!

Tarik has offered a priceless and dynamic way to give back to Rainbow by offering to speak periodically to parents who have children enrolled in Rainbow's programs. He encourages parents to develop a partnership with Rainbow's teaching staff and work as a unified team to ensure their children succeed academically, emotionally, and socially.

Rainbow's teaching staff and Administration suggest that Worcester residents remember Tarik Octave's name. He is someone to watch and will one day be a progressive business leader with a passion for "paying it forward" and will give back to Worcester Community. He is extraordinary!