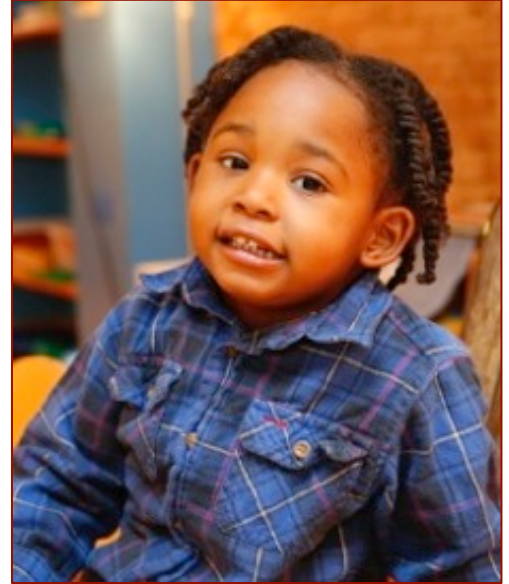


## THE GARDEN STORIES

**Student:** Aden Smith

**Currently:** Enrolled at The Buckley School in the City of New York

Adea Mapp Smith (mother): "I chose The O'Gorman Garden because it is small and intimate. I heard about it through my daughter's school, Storefront Academy. It is so different from the other day cares and pre-schools in my neighborhood. Once I met Alice and saw how the children were learning in a warm and loving space, I wanted Aden to be here too! I felt Aden would be safe there and receive a lot of attention.



"Before Aden joined The O'Gorman Garden, we had concerns about his speech. He was not talking at all. We tried to get him into early intervention programs, but he didn't qualify. So, when he started school, I wanted to make sure he was in an environment that would meet him where he was, but support him to progress. At The O'Gorman Garden, Aden improved a great deal in his socializing skills with children his age and he is now expressing himself verbally. I felt relieved and happy.

"I liked the Montessori style of teaching and learning and how Aden was able to independently choose activities. My fondest moment with the school was after the 2014 Holiday Show. Aden was excited to be there. He called out all of the animals in the play and said the names of his new friends playing the animals in the performance. I felt so proud."

Aden is currently enrolled and thriving at The Buckley School in the City of New York in its elementary school program.

