



Feature Story

It's a good thing Ariana Langston was blessed with a beautiful smile because she serves the Learning Tree with that beautiful smile. Langston spreads sunshine wherever she goes. She takes her job seriously and loves her students hard every day. Her commitment to the company, especially the students, is so much a part of her identity that the company gave her a promotion. "I take pride in working with students of disabilities. I try to love them like they are my own and treat them like the individuals they want to be," stated Langston.

Born in Marietta, Georgia, and raised in Canton, GA, Langston smiles jumps out from a mile away as she changes lives one at a time.

"Everything I do, someday, somehow, positively touches the lives of kids," Langston says. "I just want to be the bright light and bring joy to people's sadness."

Langston has been working with The Learning Tree for over a year. She's 24 years old and currently finishing up her degree here at Jacksonville. The job is something that she loves and looks forward to each day. Langston's love of dealing with kids blossomed when she could be a student helper to special needs children in high school. Despite

often feeling she doesn't do enough, or her smile sometimes is not enough, she continues to work hard to make a difference in the lives of others.

The Learning Tree provides three residential schools that include thirty homes for children in Mobile, Jacksonville, and Tallahassee – for children, ages 6-21, with developmental disabilities, including autism.