

## EXPLORER SPOTLIGHT

### Yelvin, Explorer, CCRI student

Yelvin knows that the four hours he spends as an **Inspiring Minds Explorer** at Providence's Kennedy Elementary School is having a positive impact. "When you walk in and they are already smiling at your presence, you know you are making a difference," he said.

Yelvin, who is studying early childhood education in college, is among the group of paid interns who mentor Providence public school students while exploring a pathway to the teaching professional. He explained why his experience in a real classroom is invaluable, saying, "You can only learn so much from a professor speaking to you."

The classroom experience is not always easy, he said, adding, "Not everything always goes as planned. Things can change on the spot." That is where the behind-the-scenes help from Inspiring Minds makes a difference. "I know I always have that support to learn on," he says. "It's a good feeling."

Yelvin frequently works with English Language Learners. "They are children who need extra support with proper pronunciation and matching words with sounds," he said. "English doesn't always make sense," he conceded, "but the way the kids look when it finally clicks—when they think it and say it—is a very satisfying experience."

He is quick to recommend the program to friends and is philosophical about his role. "Even if they don't remember me years from now, I know I helped them on their first step of their journey."