

Padres y familias del programa Head Start en el condado de Prince William, de Manassas, Virginia Entrevista con un padre de familia: MarÃa MartÃnez

(links for viewing and download at end of transcript)

Maria Martinez: [Speaking in Spanish] Good morning, my name is Maria Martinez. I am from El Salvador. And he is my son, Marvin Martinez. He attends the Head Start class. We are participants and the government has helped my child attend the program. Being in this country is very hard for us Latinos and, also, for our children because we teach them our language at home.

I like this program because, in it, my son has been able to develop his native language, English, although, as a parent, I have taught him Spanish at home. The program has also strengthened his behavior. They have taught him a lot and, in terms of development, Head Start is the best there is. I want to congratulate the founders of the program.

It is sad to know that there are many children who are still on a waiting list who do not have this opportunity. As a parent, I would like the government to provide greater support and accessibility for all children who are of the right age so that they may go to Head Start without any obstacles.

I love this program; and the truth is that, as a parent, it has taught me a lot, too. My son taught me English, which I really liked, and this country taught and helped me know how to behave because, when you come from another country, you have different customs. In this program, I have learned to discipline my child within this culture that is different from my own.

I encourage all parents to also get involved in the development of our children because you need to remember, and to never forget, that our home is the first school our children have and it is there where they begin to learn. This program also helps and teaches parents how to discipline their children. It gives us what we need to help them develop academically, regardless of the different language, as this program also helps those who cannot speak English.

Also as a parent, I am surprised with what this program has taught me. Unfortunately, in our countries, this kind of program doesn't exist, and it is a very nice program. What I can emphasize about this program is that it involves parents and children, and the whole family is involved, which is important for the development of our children.

Remember that the education and economic development of this country depends on the behavior and education of our children. The truth is that I am very happy because I can see the difference.

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-- Premalink for viewing (requires Flash and javascript)

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/HEAD+START/000160-Marla+Martinez+Parent+Interview-2011-SD360p/2bc4d5b40d2bcT4cc0bbde7N8271010488e6>