

# Family Emigrates from Mexico, Pursues Family Literacy for a Better Life

Theresa Navarro and her family, came to the United States in 2007, determined to learn English, become citizens, and pursue the American dream. County Family Literacy Academy in Greensboro, NC.

One might think Theresa Navarro and her family sacrificed quite a life to emigrate to the United States. Theresa was pursuing a college degree to become a teacher and volunteered at a preschool. Her husband was an electrical engineer.

Nevertheless, the Navarro family made the decision to leave Apatzingan, Michoacan, Mexico in 2007 and began the process of becoming American citizens. Theresa received her citizenship in 2010.

Life in America wasn't easy for the Navarros at first. The family lived with Theresa's sister while they took English as a Second Language and citizenship classes. Theresa's husband worked as a lawn maintenance man and a cook in a restaurant.

Enter Project LEARN (Let's Eliminate At-Risk Needs). Project LEARN, a Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy grant recipient, provides tutoring, homework, and developmental childcare for children—among other services—while their parents attend classes. Through Project LEARN, parents learn the best ways to read with their children from certified reading specialists, while the kids are taught reading by trained early childhood educators.

Like so many Barbara Bush Foundation funded programs, the focus is on the family.

"Our programs enable families to enjoy reading and literacy-based activities together," said Project LEARN Coordinator Paula Bauer. "Home visits and parent education provide additional support."



Theresa Navarro spends quality time reading with her 5-year-old daughter, Camila.

Project LEARN's program has been very successful for the Navarro family. Theresa is proud that her 5th grade daughter, Paola, is class president and in the gifted and talented program."

**"Because of Project LEARN, I now believe my goals are reachable and possible."  
– Theresa Navarro**

Her goals are to advance in English writing and conversational skills, to attend nursing school, and to send her children to college.

"Project LEARN has taught me to be a better mother and to communicate better with my family," said Theresa. "Because of Project LEARN, I now believe my goals are reachable and possible."

**We congratulate the Navarro family on their great success, and believe they will reach their ultimate goals.**

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