



NC Department of Health and Human Services

Will My Son be Able to Speak Spanish?

Our Multilingual Journey to Becoming Family Leaders

EHDI Conference

Cincinnati, OH

March 7, 2023

**Keila Armas – NC EHDI Parent Consultant
and David Armas**

Learning Objectives

- 1. Audience will understand how different cultures can influence decision-making.**
- 2. Audience will recognize how the origin of a person can make a difference responding to a situation, although we all share the same feelings.**
- 3. Audience will apply their knowledge about the family's culture during the moment of interaction with them.**

Where am I from? Guatemala

1. There are 25 languages spoken in Guatemala.
2. Spanish is the official and most spoken language.
3. There are 22 different Mayan Languages as well as two other Indigenous languages Garifuna and Xinca.



Source: <https://translatorswithoutborders.org> Photos Credit: Getty Images

David's Story: Profound Hearing Loss

- **David was born with Profound Sensorineural Hearing Loss(SNHL), caused by the Connexin 26 (Cx26).**
- **We got the diagnosis when he was about 2 months old.**
- **At 3 months old, he started using hearing aids and receiving speech therapies with Early Intervention and I started receiving support from a parent educator from Beginnings.**

David's Story: Profound Hearing Loss

- **He received his first Cochlear Implant when he was 14 months old and got activated shortly after, showing amazing results.**
- **He received the second Cochlear Implant when he was 32 months old, it came to complement the first one.**
- **At 3 years old, he started going to the public school.**

First day of school and First self-portrait



Photos Credit: NC EHDl Program

David's Story: Profound Hearing Loss

- When David was in 4th grade, he got out of the IEP program and started with a 504 Plan.
- He became Bilingual (English/Spanish) and is doing very well.



Photo Credit: NC EHDI Program

A Mother's Thought



Photos Credit: NC EHDI Program

David's Family: Our Family



Photos Credit: NC EHDI Program

My Commitment to the Latino Community and other Minorities with Hearing Loss!

- In 2015, I opened a support group in Spanish for families with children with hearing loss. “Triunfa Caracol Latino”**
- I started volunteering with The Children’s Cochlear Implant Center at UNC, Duke Hearing Center for Children and Families, Beginnings and with The CARE Project.**

My Commitment to the Latino Community and other Minorities with Hearing Loss!

- **Then I became a trainer for the NC DHHS Children & Youth Branch Parent as Collaborative Leader Trainings -For Parents by Parents.**
- **In April of 2022, I was hired to work part time with NC DHHS, Division of Child and Family Well-Being as a Parent Consultant.**

“Triunfa Caracol Latino” (Triumph Latino Snail)



TRIUNFA CARACOL LATINO (Área del Triángulo y sus alrededores) >

Private group · 125 members



TRIUNFA CARACOL LATINO (Área de Charlotte) >

Private group · 50 members



TRIUNFA CARACOL LATINO (Área de Asheville y sus alrededores) >

Private group · 8 members

Photo Credit: NC EHD Program

“Triunfa Caracol Latino” Estamos Juntos en esto (We are together in this.)



Photo Credit: NC EHDl Program

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Questions?



Photo Credit: NC EHDl Program