

DELAWARE STARS PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT:



Mi Casita Family Child Care Program

Dual Language Family Child Care Provider – Educating Spanish Style

November 2019

At Ms. Carmen Benitez’s family child care program, children transition seamlessly from learning in English to Spanish and do it quite proficiently. For example, when Ms. Carmen asks a student to point to words, she does it first in Spanish and then in English – no sweat! What makes this even more impressive is that Ms. Carmen is speaking to her primarily in Spanish and the student is from an English-speaking home.

Ms. Carmen, a Peruvian native, came to this country with the goal of teaching young children. She started her family child care program ten years ago and continues to not only obtain goals but set new ones. Stars Technical Assistant (TA) Amanda Mackey could not agree more.

“Carmen knows when to ask for help but creates her own goals and works toward them,” said Amanda.

In the six years working with Delaware Stars, Ms. Carmen has made much progress. Two years ago, she achieved a Star Level 5 designation, which made her very proud.

“I always ask my TA what I can do to get better,” said Carmen. “By working with Amanda, I have been able to take assessment to the next level.”

And she does it all with love. She develops lasting relationships with the children and their families.



“Carmen has open communication with families which ultimately helps the children,” adds Amanda. “Carmen is so warm with her interactions and carefully observes her students so she can be sure to provide activities that stimulate and challenge each individual child.” Ms. Carmen has created a culture of quality care at her program.

“Carmen has made quality a habit,” said Amanda. “She does not do things to check boxes off for Stars. She has changed her practice so all quality enhancements are just second nature now.”