

THE **POWER** OF HEAD START



Head Start changes the lives of children and families. These first-hand accounts from parents, staff, and graduates are a testament to the power of Head Start. There are countless Head Start success stories to be shared—here is one.

Fast Fact



Head Start parents have **steeper increases in their educational attainment** by the time their children are six years old.

Source: National Head Start Association. 2019 National Head Start Profile. <https://www.nhsa.org/national-head-start-fact-sheets#> Accessed October 5, 2020

Story submitted by: **Amparo**

Migrant Seasonal Head Start in Community Action Partnership San Luis Obispo, CA

I have been with Migrant Seasonal Head Start through Community Action Partnership San Luis Obispo for 19 years. I immigrated here from Mexico in 1989 with my four daughters and two sons. I started working at home babysitting six kids. I worked very hard for almost 10 years and in 1997, I decided to attend adult school to learn English. After two years, I went to college and got my associates degree in Early Childhood Education.

During my first classes at college, I was trying to figure out my career path and decided I wanted to serve families in some way. In 2001, I took a job as a food transporter at the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo, in South Monterey County. I remained in that position for one year, but I desired to work directly with children. So, in 2002, I became a preschool teacher's assistant and in 2003 I became a preschool teacher. In 2006, I transferred to Kern County as a Family Service Advocate. During my two years as a family advocate, I gained a lot of experience in that field, partially due to being mentored by a wonderful area manager named Lupe, who guided me and supported me during my time working for the Misteco Community. I was so impressed with this community! Parents were very good educators for their children in all areas, such as academic, social, and religious.

I returned to South Monterey County in 2009 due to the high levels of air and water contamination in Kern County. In 2015, I obtained my Family Development Credential from Connecticut University. I am so grateful for this program and Head Start for providing me with many opportunities to grow as an individual and as a professional.

Head Start gives children from at-risk backgrounds the skills they need to be successful in school and life — supporting more kids, families, and communities on their path to success.

"I am so grateful for this program and Head Start for providing me with many opportunities to grow as an individual and as a professional."

- Amparo, Head Start staff

