

Five Stars of Quality in Child Care

Nuris' Home Day Care, owned by a Hispanic woman, is the first child care [home] in Rhode Island to achieve this rating from the BrightStars program.

PROVIDENCE.- The Dominican Nuris Ynoa, owner and director of the child care program Nuris' Home Day Care, became the first [family child care] provider in the state this week to achieve a five-star BrightStars quality rating.

Ynoa, together with her husband and assistant Jose Rodriguez, has worked as a child care provider for more than ten years. Her program is located at 82 [Rutherglen Avenue] in the Reservoir neighborhood of Providence.

[Ynoa] came to the United States in 1987 from the Dominican Republic. Upon her arrival, like many immigrants, she engaged in hard work that kept her away from home for many hours. It was with the objective to spend more time at home with her children and the love she had always had for children that attracted her with enthusiasm to the idea of opening a day care, a goal that she accomplished in 1999.

Almost immediately after opening her program, her husband was laid off, so the two decided to work together on the project. "In the beginning it was a little difficult for me, because for me as a man, I am accustomed to working outside the home. But, as a person that enjoys being at home, I adapted well and we both support each other," indicated her husband.

Eleven years after she opened her day care, Ynoa has seen the results of her sustained efforts. The method that she uses in her child care program has been regarded as excellent, after achieving the highest rating in all of the areas that were evaluated by the assessment staff of BrightStars, a program which includes about 79 [homes]

throughout the state. The scale used to assess providers requires a maximum average of 5 points, which Ynoa exceeded.

The day care operates from 5:30 in the morning until 5:30 in the evening, Monday through Friday, and accepts children two months to 12 years of age. In addition to child care the program provides education, transportation, summer camp, field trips and a room [to complete] homework.

Jenny Guerrero, BrightStars Program Coordinator, explained that Nuris' Home Day Care obtained high quality marks in areas such as safety, interactions with the children, family communication and involvement, materials, activities, meal times, and environment; in addition to having a curriculum approved by the State Department of Education. Also considered were the provider's level of education, professional [development] plan, and [program] management plan.

Ynoa holds an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education and has received training in the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards.

As part of her continued development in the field, she has also participated in various levels of professional development to improve her professional practice, knowledge and skills and her program has participated in BrightStars since 2010.

"I am very thankful for the support of my family, my siblings; BrightStars and also Ready to Learn Providence. In our [program] the children not only receive care and teaching, but also we provide a warm home atmosphere," expressed Ynoa, who currently has a waiting list, due to the volume of demand for her services.

About BrightStars

BrightStars is managed by the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children. The program helps families in Rhode Island choose high quality child care and school-age programs. It also helps providers learn about best practices in early learning and apply them to care children receive.

Seventy-eight percent of [family] child care providers in BrightStars speak Spanish as a first language.