

SAVES Program



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

M-DCPS

It Would Have Been Difficult without SAVES' Help

Arai Vega arrived in the United States from Cuba on May 20, 2012. She left behind her family, dreams, friends, and life aspirations because she was struggling to find success with her career as a Special Education teacher as well as her own life. She knew that she had to leave behind a dictatorial country that did not allow her to develop her way of free thinking about her career and personal life.

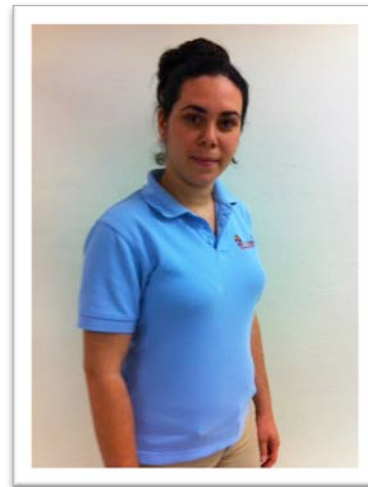
The beginning was hard for her because she lived with her sister-in-law who brought her and her husband with a Cuban paroled visa that gave them help in different ways. She wanted to work to start a new life together with her husband, but they had to wait for the employment authorization to do so.

While waiting for her work documents to be able to work, her sister-in-law, who works at Miami Coral Park as an ESOL teacher, told her to contact the SAVES Program. The SAVES staff talked to her about Child Care classes since she has been a special needs teacher in Cuba. They also told her that through the SAVES Program, she could translate her degree and take English classes.

On August 13, 2012, she registered for both Child Care and ESOL classes although she had to withdraw from ESOL due to attendance. In Child Care classes, she learned how to work with kids with the help of Mrs. Maria Sanhueza, her teacher.

Arai is grateful to Mrs. Sanhueza for teaching her new things about kids that she put into practice when she found a job on October 1, 2012, as a part time teacher in a day care.

Arai is still in Child Care classes, which she considers interesting and useful for her job. SAVES is helping her with the translation of her Bachelor's Degree with Josef Silny, and she is planning to start ESOL classes when she finishes Child Care to improve her English skills at work and to continue with her previous career here in the United States. She said that this process would have been difficult without SAVES' help, and for that she is extremely thankful. We wish Arai the best in her future endeavors.



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