

Voices from the Field: Gabriella Reyes



Q1: With Diego you had a choice to make. The school system said he could be in a special classroom with just a few children and a teacher or he could go into to a larger classroom of typically developing children that was inclusive. How did you decide that?

It was a difficult decision, first to put him in school and separate him from me. It was difficult for me because I think, I felt he was too little to separate him from me. I decided to enroll him and opted for a classroom with children. He could have been in a class with children with special needs, he would only have 3 classmates and a lot of adult attention, but Diego did not know how to play with children. I wanted him to have the opportunity to learn to play with other children and I decided to enroll him in the regular classroom with children that do not have special needs.

Q2: Even though it was a hard decision, do you feel that you made the right decision?

Well, I don't know if I made the correct decision. I was always indecisive, but I wanted (pause) everything that I always do I have done it so that Diego could be better, and I saw that Diego grew a lot and he learned to play, he learned to share with other children, because he could be surrounded by children, but he was in his own world. He would not engage in the games and Diego learned to play with children. Now the only noticeable disability is his language. It is the only thing.