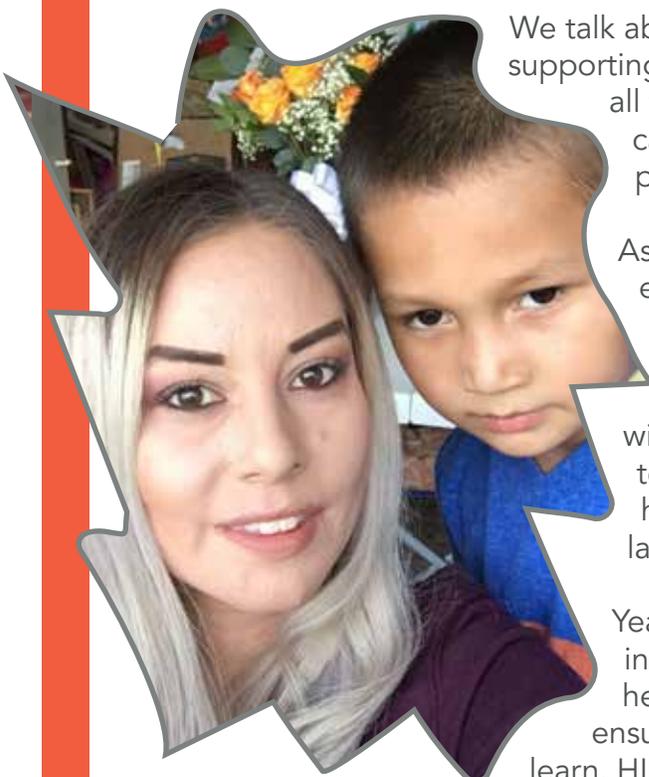


Beyond Two-Generation Impact



We talk about home visiting as a two-generation approach to supporting families and children. But, it's rare that one person plays all the critical roles in the home visiting story – child, caregiver and home visitor. Romana Castro is just such a person.

As a child growing up in Grand Junction, Romana's mother enrolled her in HIPPIY. Romana still has fond memories of home visits. She recalls the visits as a special time where she got to learn and explore and have one-on-one time with her mother. She credits those HIPPIY home visits with helping to "get [her] on track." She says, "When I got to school it wasn't new. I thought 'I've done this.' HIPPIY helped me to get where I needed to go. Spanish is my first language but after HIPPIY, I was only in ESL for one year."

Years later, having just moved to Greeley, Romana enrolled in HIPPIY once again. However, this time it was as a mom herself. Like her mother, Romana enrolled in HIPPIY to ensure her son had every chance to start school ready to learn. HIPPIY provided special time with her son, gave him a great foundation for kindergarten, and helped him to develop a better routine. It also helped him to develop a deep love of reading. What's more, as a new resident of Greeley, her HIPPIY home visitor was critically important helping to connect her to resources and to better integrate into the community. As she explains it, "HIPPIY helped us out with resources and getting to know the community. It's not just coming to visit at the house, they offer so much. They go above and beyond."

With her son heading into kindergarten, Romana took on yet another role with HIPPIY – this time as a home visitor. Having experienced the program as a child and as a mother, Romana was eager to work with families and help to deliver the HIPPIY program. After being hired and trained, she began to see families and was thrilled to watch others embrace the joy of connecting with their child and learning together. She was able to help parents and children create the routines and habits that would lead to school readiness and a love of learning.

Romana thrived as a home visitor and her son excelled in kindergarten – a result she attributes in part to his involvement with HIPPIY. "My son fell in love with reading and with science through HIPPIY and in his first year of school he was one of the top readers in his class. HIPPIY helped him to become a great reader." Having played so many roles with HIPPIY, Romana is a major champion for the program. In fact, just this year she encouraged her niece Teresa to enroll her child in HIPPIY – setting the stage for another transformation and another cycle of involvement.



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YRS OF INSPIRING
EVERYDAY MAGIC