Playing it safe in a Learning Environment

Dinorah Jerez, owner of the Jesiah Jireh Early Learning Center LLC had just celebrated the birth of her third child, realizing the cost for daycare and wanting to contribute to the household income along with her husband, Fabio Arias. Dinorah decided to become a licensed childcare provider. Dinorah and Fabio are the proud parents of six boys, having adopted 3 of their 6 children. They also have been Foster Parents for more than twelve years. Their love for taking care of children goes beyond their immediate family and Dinorah is proving this every day at the Jesiah Jireh Early Learning Center LLC.

Upon making the decision to start a daycare, Dinorah connected with Barbara Green from Childcare Consultants to obtain her family daycare license. Obtaining her family daycare license gave Dinorah the ability to take care of her newborn son and be available to her school age children while assisting her family financially. After 2 years of successful operations, Dinorah decided to start looking for a building to operate her Center. Having a deep faith, Dinorah prayed for guidance and the property on Carol Road became available for rent.

Seeking financial assistance, Dinorah went to Jill Bollinger with Community First Fund and was referred to Jen Horning, Business Consultant with the Shippensburg University SBDC for assistance with preparing documentation for the loan process. Dinorah said “Honestly, in the beginning I was frustrated at times and was tired mentally and emotionally because when I thought everything was good it was not good enough, but Jen was there for me every step of the way. Jen continued encouraging me and telling what to do.” Jen assisted Dinorah with business and financial planning, along with community trends and research. Dinorah was approved for a SBA loan and most recently received support from the emergency pandemic assistance available to small businesses to endure the challenges brought on by COVID-19.

According to Dinorah, “The pandemic did impact my business but at the same time was a blessing for my business because we received support from the EIDL Program and the PPP.” In a time when many Centers were facing adversity, Jesiah Jireh Early Learning Center LLC was able to remain in operations and even increase their enrollment. Dinorah’s main concern was giving the children of all the parents working on the front line and the essential workers a safe place to learn.

Jesiah Jireh Early Learning Center LLC is making many contributions to the community. The center is committed to quality childcare encouraging children’s inquiring minds and stimulating their developmental growth through active educational play. The young children are immersed in learning and utilizing the Spanish language. The Center is serving families with exceptional care for their children in the York community.