

DESERT BLOOMS

September 2014



Cristina teaches us sign language

We are into signs now at Santo Niño. Sign-language that is! So many of our children are non-verbal and with Reyna starting kindergarten this year it seemed like something we all should learn. Each day we have a lesson with some basic signs that indicate feelings and

needs. It will give the children such a sense of empowerment to be able to express what they want: eat, water, hot, cold, happy, sad, angry, work... And we are all learning together!

As several of our children are back in school, we are working with new teachers to let them know how our program at Santo Niño can help them work with the kids in their classrooms. In addition to making some classroom visits, we invite the teachers to come to Santo Niño on free days or Saturdays. We actually have a lot more resources for our children and the ability to work with them one-on-one.

Reyna is a good example of the benefits of early childhood intervention. She has been with us since she was two weeks old. Her kindergarten teacher has been very impressed with her level of functioning in a standard classroom. She told Tania (mom) and Sister Carol that Reyna helps many of the other children with lessons and tasks. "Show me what you have been using when you work with her!"



Reyna ready for school!

Conchita, on the other hand, is now in middle-school where some of the subjects are more difficult for her. Some of her teachers are less interested or unable to provide the extra help she needs. We are trying to negotiate some other options for her during those classes and give her individual tutoring on the days she can come to the center.



Happy 13th birthday, Conchita!

Yakeline attended school last year without much difficulty. Laura (mom) would bring her to us before school for some extra help but in general she was able to keep up with the class. She is a very active six year old (we have long referred to her as the "little tornado") and her new teacher has not been able to find a successful strategy for working with her. For the time being, we are her school. She is doing very well with our multi-disciplinary approach to special education. She doesn't hesitate to call the shots when she gets on the table for her neuro-movement lesson with Sister Carol. "Ok- just a little!" she says and after about ten minutes it's, "I'm better!" and off she goes!



Laura practices signing with Yakeline

The "Love Bus" is operating at full capacity these days. Even with the flash floods of this past month Sofia has been able to make the rounds to pick up our Santo Niño family. Thanks again to those who showed us the love!