

A Baby Coming to America

By Yulisa LeBaron

Many years ago, Dad declared, “*Quiero que obtengas un excelente aprendizaje.*” My dad thought I could get educated better in America than in Chihuahua, Mexico. So in 1999, when I was a year and a half old, my mom informed all of us we were going to the United States. My whole family and I went to the United States: my dad, mom, my sisters Karla, who was 17; Esmeralda, who was 15; Cecy, who was 14; Lorena, who was 11; Idali, who was 10; and Keiry, who was 5; along with my brother Noe, who was 13. My dad told my siblings, “*Necesitas ir a trabajar.*”

First, we lived in a trailer in Salt Lake City, Utah. My family and I stayed in Salt Lake for only a month because we have a farm in LeBaron, Mexico, and had to go back there.

In 2007, we all moved to Fargo, ND. My mom did not have a job for the first month that we were there. My sisters and my brother went to school. We have lived in Fargo, ND, now for 9 years. My family admires Fargo, and Mom says things like, “*Mi hermano y hermanas hablaban Ingles y Espanol en Fargo.*”

In 2007, I went to Kennedy Elementary School in fourth grade. It was hard to be in school because I kept going back and forth between Fargo and Mexico. No, it was not easy, but the students were thoughtful, and my friends were considerate to me as well. My teacher Mrs. Dinne was caring too. She was very nice because whenever we took a spelling test, she said to me, “Just write the best you can.”

Then I would reply, “Okay, thanks.”

My journey to America was important because my dad thought that I could get a better education. I learned that you cannot stay in America without going to school. I also found out

that you need to live in America for at least three to four years to become a citizen. Coming to America when I was a baby affected the rest of my whole life. I adore America because of the schools and the teachers who help me in my education.

Spanish Language Glossary

Mi hermano y hermanas hablaban Ingles y Espanol en Fargo.

My brother and sisters spoke English and Spanish in Fargo.

Necesitas ir a trabajar.

You need to go to work.

Solo escribe el mejor usted puede.

Just spell the best you can.

Quiero que obtengas un excelente aprendizaje.

I want you to get an outstanding education.

About the Author

Yulisa LeBaron lives in Fargo, ND, with her six sisters and mom. She is a senior at Davies High School. She's 18 years old. She likes singing Christian songs and loves going to church. She is from Chihuahua, Mexico.

