



Meet the Diego Family

Felipe and Eulalia Diego immigrated from Guatemala in 1986. Most of the year, they live with their 5 children in southern Florida. Micaela is 10, Juan is 8, Alfredo is 6, Catarina is 5, and Francisco is 27 months. Both Catarina and Francisco have Down Syndrome.

When Mr. and Mrs. Diego came to the United States, they spoke Konjoval. Since Spanish is spoken by Mr. Diego's co-workers and in their neighborhood, both are now proficient in Spanish. Mr. Diego works in the fields—often seven days a week—and migrates with the crops from Florida to New Jersey. Mrs. Diego is no longer able to travel with him because of the needs of her two youngest children. In addition to supporting their family in the United States, Mr. Diego regularly sends money to his parents and relatives in Guatemala.

Both Catarina and Francisco had serious medical problems when they were babies. Until recently, Francisco received services in a school program for children with serious medical needs, which was at least an hour's bus ride from home each way. He is now receiving child care at Early Head Start (EHS) and receiving physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and speech and language intervention at the Early Head Start (EHS) center and thriving. His heart condition needs careful monitoring, and his hands often have a purple or bluish tinge.

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