Student Spotlight: A Family Literacy Success Story

“I was very nervous to come at first,” said Maria Angeles when asked about attending our Rankin Family Literacy Program in September of this year. “I know I need to learn English, but it was scary to come somewhere new.”

Maria, mother of three, entered our Fall Family Literacy Program with the goal to improve her English reading, writing and speaking skills and to read to her children more.

Maria shared with our staff that since her youngest daughter, 3-year old Melanie, was put on a waiting list for a spot in the Pre-K program, she was unable to afford childcare and couldn’t get a job. She found herself feeling “stuck at home” with her daughter. She became afraid that neither she nor her daughter would have any way to improve their English.

“I want her to be ready for Kindergarten, but I feel like I can’t help her because I need help!” said Maria of her predicament, “So I came to the Reading Connections Family Literacy Program and got some help here.”

During the 9 week program, Maria was able to improve her literacy by an entire literacy level. Her daughter Melanie also improved her verbal English skills, and her son Rafael began to read more on his own at home.

“I find that I want to do more now, said Maria, “I am listening more when my kids are talking to me. I am reading to them more in both English and Spanish. I feel better about me and what I am doing for my family and my kids.”

Spurred on by her success, Maria plans to continue attending our Family Literacy sessions at Rankin Elementary when they begin again in January and is excited to continue her journey toward being the best she can be for her family.

*Adriana Adams, Family Literacy Coordinator*