

IVYP STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Laura Costilla

What is your role at IVYP?

I am the Administrative Assistant at the Isla Vista Children's Center and have been in this role for 3 years. When families walk in I am usually the first person they see and I love to greet them with a smile and help them to feel comfortable as if they were at home. Previously I worked as a teacher's aid for 5 years. My favorite was working in our Infant Class because I got the opportunity to see the children grow and develop. I have 3 children of my own my son Joseph (12), my daughter Alina (11) and my youngest Kiara (10).

What do you like most about your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is helping families in the community find affordable child care. Especially those members in the community who are out of a job or a home and need to leave their child in a safe place during the day so they can use that time get back on their feet.

What is one thing you wish people knew about IVYP?

One of the most important things that I would love for people to know about IVYP is that we are the first step in creating a solid foundation for positive educational development and social emotional health.

Who was your favorite teacher and how did they inspire you?

I am living proof that we are able to create long lasting and inspirational change in very young children. My favorite teacher was my Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Socorro Chavez. I was a latecomer into her kindergarten class and she helped to shape me into the caring, patient person I am today. She was and continues to be a very confident friendly face in the community and still works as a Kindergarten Teacher at Isla Vista Elementary School. The best thing that she taught me was that we have to be resilient during difficult transitions because everything that happens, good or bad, is an opportunity to learn and be stronger.



When you were 5, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was 5 I wanted to be a mom. I met my goal.