



A Perfect Moment

A SMILE, A LIGHTHOUSE, TWO PARENTS, and a supportive school. This child is enjoying a perfect moment while celebrating Costa Rica's Independence Day. The twist, this moment was impossible just two months earlier.

I met Keylor in his kindergarten class while managing a volunteer education program in Damas, Costa Rica (in the Puntarenas region near the town of Quepos). He was disruptive, came to school at most two days a week, and was diagnosed with high-level autism. After working with Keylor, it became clear that this 5-year-old's main challenge was not autism—it was hearing.

During the next two weeks I interpreted meetings between a special education volunteer and Keylor's teacher and mom. We soon discovered that Keylor's mom kept him at home because she was embarrassed by his behavior and ashamed that he didn't act like the other kids. We urged Keylor's mom to bring him to school and promised that we could help, and we did. We developed bilingual action cards with pictures and words for every action Keylor had to complete at home and in school (brush your teeth, paint, clean-up, etc). Soon, he knew all the cards, worked independently, and his family was proud to join together at community events.

Together, we can be the solution.

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YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at magazine@nafsa.org.