



## **Interview at Long Beach Public Library**

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Laura Castillo, Long Beach Unified School District teacher, tells her fiancé and fellow teacher, Jerome Roberts, why she loves the Long Beach Public Library so much.

Laura Castillo: Long Beach is a, is a great place. I love Long Beach because my own kids were raised here with many resources. And me, myself, being from another country, I am very appreciative of the parks and the libraries. Since my own first son was 5 months old, I was taking him to the library. To me, it was a marvelous experience to have programs for babies. Where we can go and sing and start reading to our children. Isn't it amazing how the approach of the library is very appealing to our students? I can compare the library in Mexico; it is all for grown-ups.

Jerome Roberts: Hmm.

Laura: So, to me, to discover that there is a small room for kids with little chairs and very comfortable. There is one library here in Long Beach that has even a bathtub where the kids can go inside and read. And plus, teaching elementary at that time, taking my students to the library, it was a treat for them. Their eyes were just ...

Jerome: yeah

Laura: ...amazed to see that they were very welcome. That they would have their own library card. The librarians were so kind to the students. They even watched movies and students would come back to the classroom and whenever we would follow up the activities in writing that's when you see the real meaning of having a library near schools. All the services that they have, let's say, sometimes, I had passed by with my kids when they were little, and they had these puzzles on the table, for, you know, senior citizens sometimes, that they, they are feeling a little

bit lonely. They go and they start putting the puzzle together. Then the kids are join and that's where the library brings in the community, I would say.

Jerome: Is this a great place to be?

Laura: Mhm. Well, now-a-days with the innovation and the extension of the internet and all these websites, students need to be preparing, need to be doing research. So, talking about research, our high schoolers are able to go to school and then, if they don't have any computer at home, they know they can access the library. And there are so many articles they can read. There are many resources they can reach through the libraries. Many times, I tell them you going to be on break, but if you don't have a computer at home, go to the library.

Jerome: Yeah.

Laura: This is the resource for them.