

## 2008 LOS ALAMOS SUCCESS CLIENT...

### BILINGUAL MONTESSORI SCHOOL, LLC

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by Venessa De Los Santos

Odalys González Fernández has been a Montessori teacher for the last 20 years and has always had dreams of owning her own school. In May 2006, she began to pursue that dream when she first visited with a counselor at the UNM-LA Small Business Development Center. Through the next two years, she spent countless hours with her counselor and friends, researching and designing her new concept for Bilingual Montessori School (BMS). Odalys was chosen because of her commitment to follow her dreams, the dedication necessary to follow through with her commitment, as well as, her continued efforts in successfully marketing the school.

BMS, a 5,000 square-foot colorful facility, opened for 'learning' on June 2, 2008 in White Rock. Prior to opening, she spent an abundance of time preparing the new school for an Open House in May of 2008 and its introduction to the community. The new school has received much attention due to its unique approach to childcare and because of the lack of adequate childcare in Los Alamos County. The opening of the school is not only 'a dream come true' for Mrs. Fernandez but a real need within the community. BMS combines the power of Montessori and Spanish language instruction to develop the young mind and to prepare children to excel as the leaders of tomorrow. BMS now employs five outstanding teachers including Mrs. Fernández, an assistant teacher and a volunteer that aim to prepare its students to excel as young leaders of tomorrow by combining an exclusive curriculum based on both Montessori and bilingual education, tailored specifically for children, with enhanced first class childcare services. The school, which already has several children on the waiting list, provides a truly unique opportunity for children in the area. The parents of currently enrolled students are extremely proud of a school that will prepare them for their future while teaching them a second language.

When asked about her involvement with the UNM-LA Small Business Development Center, Mrs. Fernández was very excited about her recognition and said: "The UNM-LA Small Business Development Center worked with me to help organize my ideas and thoughts and played a role in clarifying the process for getting my business started."

The school kicked off its fall session with a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month on September 21, 2008 in honor of all her new students and their families. The school is currently accepting applications and the website, [www.bilingualmontessorischool.com](http://www.bilingualmontessorischool.com)

The [\*Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\) at UNM-Los Alamos\*](#) is the place to visit for no charge, confidential, professional advisement and support.

