Topic: Mexican Immigrated Parents and Education in the United States

- Alma Coronado came to the United States with the education background of third grade. She sought to provide a better education foundation for her two children. Being an immigrant, in a new country, she wasn’t sure how to steer her children in the right direction. Which direction is right? She knew education was the way to go, but she had little education to teach her children. Alma found a parenting program called ADVANCE-Dallas which she enrolled in to help fill the need of skills to help her children succeed in America (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.351).

- The ADVANCE-Dallas program focused on behavior, and attitudes parents’ role model for their children. The main point of the article was explaining how the ADVANCE-Dallas program has had actual success with Mexican immigrant mothers, by teaching them how crucial their presence, and behavior/attitude, can provide their children with better chances of succeeding academically (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.352).
• Despite the fact that most immigrant mothers come to the United States with a very small amount of education, they can still help their children succeed in school by being their main support system, and promoting academics (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.352).

• Even when the children are extremely young, their mothers are their first teachers. The ADVANCE-Dallas program made that point to the mothers and advised them that playtime is very important to create development and interaction skills. Even though the parents enrolled in the program had minimal education, their beliefs, and goals for their children revolved around the importance of getting a higher education than they did. The immigrant parents who went to school in Mexico for 3-6 years explained that their school experience was positive, and that they really enjoyed going to school. The main reason for most of these immigrant mothers was the lack of financial security within their families, creating the force to drop out of school at an extremely young age to go to work to make money for their family (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.352).

• The quick change in the amount of Mexican immigrants is continuing to increase the portion of the Mexican population in the United States. The ADVANCE-Dallas program has pin-pointed the direct relationship between Mexican immigrants and low education. Due to the fact that our society have been effected by this immigration situation we need to turn our focus to helping them find education routes where they can get the help to understand and succeed or else we will be faced with an increase in crime and violence. The immigrant population needs to be work worthy and have more education than elementary schooling (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.352).

• Almost 100% of Mexican mothers studied in a survey stated that it is very important to them for their children to go to college. Their reason was that they felt it was the main
factor to provide them with a good career resulting in financial stability (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.353).

- Throughout the study done by the ADVANCE-Dallas program children of immigrant parents have showed advancement in academics while children of United States born parents are under those with immigrant parents. The article explains that the parent’s attitude regarding education is set to great standards which push their children to accomplish dreams and goals their parents have longed for them to achieve (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.353).

- Parenting programs like ADVANCE-Dallas should be available to all immigrant mothers wanting the guidance. The program mixed with a positive attitude has proved to help smooth the want to succeed academically to actual success in minority children (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.354).

- When the parent sits down and is actively involved in their child’s schooling, their child will be more likely to participate in class (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.355).

- Once this education goal is accomplished that child will have the background and education to pass down the importance of academic success to the following generation (Schaller, Rocha, Barshinger Pg.355).

Assessment:

The authors of the article showed strength by providing solid studies, and excellent information surrounding the issues involved with immigration and low education; all while intertwining a lovely personal story of a mother by the name of Alma Coronado and her efforts to become the best mother she could be, as she faced life as a Mexican immigrant in America.
I enjoyed the flow of the article; it keeps the reader effortlessly engaged from start to finish. The article related closely to multiple narratives in our class by expanding on the notion of higher education standards set for children of immigrant parents. The emphasis of the article is centered on how parental involvement and their attitude toward academics are crucial factors to their children accomplishing their academic goals.