

## Initial education from a distance

### Calasanz School in Managua

While other countries were already pushing for social estrangement measures in mid-March to halt the advance of the coronavirus pandemic, Nicaragua's political leaders convened a series of pro-government marches and rallies under the slogan "Walk of Love in COVID-19 Times".

The Nicaraguan government has denied the severity of the pandemic and has not decreed quarantine as other countries have done, but the truth is that, despite the information opacity, there are many contagions and deaths from coronavirus.

The Episcopal Conference, most successfully writes on 25 May: "The rapid advance of contagion is evident; unfortunately, also the number of deaths. Citizens are among uncertainty, pain and death. The situation is further aggravated by "the silence of the state", the country's bishops write, and the "disinformation about the progress of the epidemic."

Our two schools in Nicaragua (Managua and León) decided to suspend face-to-face teaching and venture into the virtual. The team of preschool educators at Calasanz School in Managua describe how they are doing to keep children learning from home.

Given the context that has come to us to live from our homes, we have had to face many changes, some never thought of. However, we have taken on the new challenge and are doing our best to adapt our educational work during the time the school is closed.

We are aware that only with God's help, love and willingness to what we do and teamwork can we succeed.

In this time, we are working remotely we have experienced successes and misadventures, strengths and weaknesses such as those mentioned below:

#### **Strengths:**

- Teamwork.
- The safety and protection of children have been ensured by guiding work from home.
- We have appropriated technological tools to continue the learning teaching process.
- **Educational Blogs** of each level have been created, through which communication with families is established, activities are oriented, and the work carried out is received.
- Improved communication with parents.
- It has been noted that parents are very involved in the learning process of their children, expressing their interest and recognizing the work of the teachers.
- The interaction between parents/children in carrying out activities has been strengthened.
- Parents have emphasized the importance of religion class, as it is children who ask for and wear prayers, just as they do in the classroom.
- Creativity has been developed, characteristic of initial education teachers, by experiencing new strategies in the technological field, new to many.

#### **Weaknesses:**

- We do not have a digital platform for school-wide use.
- An objective assessment cannot be developed.

- Some parents do not give it the importance required by this level of education, demonstrating it in non-compliance with targeted activities.
- Several students have been retired, most for financial reasons.

**Challenges:**

- Continue to update ourselves and implement new strategies that favor learning in our students.
- Establish video conferences with parents, children, and teacher, that children can interact with their teacher and peers, thus collaborating with motivation and evaluating the emotional part.
- That in the near future as a school we have an educational platform without limitations in its applications that allow us to use different goodness of it, with which learning can be favored.

I attach the *links* of the Educational Blogs of Initial Education in which, the teachers upload the work and communicate with their students.

**I level:** <https://primernivelcal.wixsite.com/managua>

**II level:** <https://segundonivelcal.wixsite.com/managua>

**III level:** <https://tercernivel2020.wixsite.com/managua>