



Mariola Torres, President of CHS of NJ's Parent Advisory Committee, photographed above, addresses the panel on one of the many parenting topics discussed during the conference.  
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## CHS OF NJ HOSTS 4TH ANNUAL LATINO PARENTING CONFERENCE

Trenton, NJ – In conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHS of NJ) held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Parenting Conference which addressed the importance of parental involvement as it relates to language assimilation in young children and how language barriers between parent and child may affect parenting skills.

Open to Mercer County Latino families 258 people were in attendance and participated in discussions with panelists made up of local experts on child development such as how children move between two cultures, how do children become multilingual, positive parental involvement and how parents can help bridge the gap between their cultural expectation for their children and the expectations of a culture where they are going to spend a significant part of their future years. "I was thrilled to see so many families here who were truly concerned and interested in learning about how to best help their children ease through this barrier," stated Maritza Raimundi-Petroski, director of family support services, Latino outreach and parenting education programs at CHS of NJ.

Twenty five local community organizations displayed information and spoke to all in attendance. Taller de Danza (a local non-profit dance group from Trenton and Princeton) provided the entertainment with performances of several different culturally appropriate dances.

Many special thanks to CHS of NJ's MAYA (Mujeres, Amigas, y Apoyo) Executive Committee and the Parent Advisory Committee.

To learn more about the Latino outreach and parenting education programs of CHS of NJ, please visit [www.chsofnj.org](http://www.chsofnj.org).