

# SBDC Star Update

## Tiny Treasures Learning Center Angleton, TX



Tiny Treasures Learning Center in Angleton celebrated eighteen years of business in August 2017. Partners Lydia Delgado and Laura Morgan founded Tiny Treasures in 1999 to pursue their dream of providing young children with a safe and caring environment that helps them grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically. Recipients of a Brazosport College SBDC Star Award in 2011, Tiny Treasures has continued to prosper and enrich the lives of the families they serve. Here is their success story!

As young women, Laura won a basketball scholarship and majored in Physical Education at Wharton Junior College, while Lydia earned a Business Degree at Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde, Texas. During the time they were both young mothers and neighbors, Laura and Lydia also became colleagues working for the Head Start program in Angleton. They shared a belief that all children have the power to learn, are curious and creative, and can succeed. They competed and collaborated at Head Start throughout the 1990s, discovering that they both also shared a desire to own their own business.

While continuing their education in Early Childhood Development at Brazosport College, Lydia and Laura met with Nina Kirk, a Business Advisor at the Brazosport College Small Business Development Center. Working with Nina, they developed a business plan to open Tiny Treasures Learning Center. After only 18 months in business, they had the opportunity to purchase the facility they were leasing. Nina introduced them to Robert Perryman at First State Bank in Clute, where they succeeded in obtaining an SBA guaranteed loan to purchase the real estate. This was the beginning of long-term relationships with the SBDC and the bank.

After 10 years, Tiny Treasures had a waiting list and needed to expand to a larger facility. Again with the help of the SBDC, First State Bank and an SBA 504 loan, Laura and Lydia were able to build a new state of the art learning center on their existing property, allowing the center's enrollment to grow from a maximum of 65 children to 164. They moved into the new building in 2010, along with many of their original staff and teachers. Now they are delighted that some of the children they taught at Head Start and during the early years at the Learning Center have become working members of the Tiny Treasures team.



Congratulations to Laura Morgan and Lydia Delgado! Their business is a treasure for Brazoria County and the many lives it has enhanced and nurtured. Lydia's advice to new entrepreneurs is to "follow your dream" and Laura adds to "believe in it!"

The SBDC has been privileged to help Tiny Treasures with business planning, loans, QuickBooks, creating a website and implementing a social media strategy. We look forward to working with the founders as their children and grandchildren become involved in this enterprise of friends and family. They are located at 724 W. Mulberry Street, Angleton, TX, 77515 and the website is [www.tinytreasures99.com](http://www.tinytreasures99.com).