

Mariam wears a hijab, too!

Farah's family was attending a community resource centre in the summer where they made really strong connections with other families in the community. That fall, Najma, Farah's mother, enrolled her in a new child care program. On Farah's first day, her family was worried about leaving her but were also excited she would make friends and learn and develop in an early-learning program they'd heard good things about.

Her parents weren't able to go into the centre directly but the drop-off was smooth. They also felt reassured when they received a photo on the centre's communication app. A sense of warmth came over Najma later that day as she listened to Farah excitedly talk about her peers and educators. "I have two new friends! And guess what?!?" Farah squealed, "My teacher, Mariam, has a green and blue hijab like yours, mommy. It was so beautiful. She even let us touch it. She told us where she bought it and why she wore it. And mommy – she told me that my name means happiness – is that true?" Najma nodded yes in response, as they both beamed.

The connection clearly filled Farah and her family with a sense of belonging and a positive sense of identity.

You can add your thoughts and reflections in the space below.