

Sophia Arguello is a vivacious elementary student with lots of energy, who loves to learn, and be a social butterfly. Her large extended family is also very important to her, especially Grandma Patricia who lives with Sophia, her sister, and mother. Prior to the pandemic, the family enjoyed being active in the children's school and community, frequently allowing Sophia to spread her wings and fly!

Unfortunately, the pandemic changed so many things and proved to be very challenging for Sophia, as she struggles to be cooped up, to wear a mask due to sensory needs, as well as the ability to manage the expectations related to social distancing for long periods of time. Consequently, the family elected to have her participate in remote learning for the full duration of the 2020-2021 academic year.

This year, Sophia has returned to in-person learning, but again managing her sensory needs frequently results in missed school and struggles to access schoolwork on short notice. This is where Grandma Patricia, Sophia's self-identified "coach," has been such an important support. Now Sophia more able to successfully manage the challenges of in-person and frequent, abrupt transitions to remote learning. The school issued Chromebook is understandably limited in what they can do, including restricted internet access. The lack of accessibility also has limited Sophia's participation in weekly therapy sessions virtually, furthering impacting her academic progress. Grandma Patricia says, "It has been so hard not having a good understanding of how to use all these apps and educational programs. When you can't get access to the programs, you know the child is missing out on educational time and falling behind. It is very stressful."

Consequently, The Arc of Weld County has donated a laptop to the family to better support Sophia's needs. When Sophia is participating in the classroom, Grandma Patricia is receiving tech coaching of her own, that she then shares with Sophia. Not surprising, Sophia takes to learning the new computer easily through the support of her "coach." Without the restrictions of the Chromebook, Sophia can now access her therapies virtually, and continue to excel in- Ready and her preferred subject, science. However, she probably enjoys the freedom to access other, less academic entertainment most, as you can never get too much Encanto and My Little Pony!