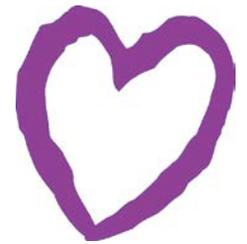




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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

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FAMILY  
RESOURCE CENTERS



## Brandon Center Success Story

# Finding Hope



### Five Protective Factors: Concrete Support in Times of Need

*Children's Board Family Resource Centers are funded by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County and administered by the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County. Managing partners include: Champions for Children, Children's Home Network, Family Community Advisory Councils, REACHUP, Inc. and St. Joseph's Children's Wellness and Safety Center.*

**All programs and services are at no charge to families and individuals.**



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In 2018, a friend encouraged Mitzi to visit the Children's Board Family Resource Centers in Brandon about child development classes for her grandson. They registered and participated in Wonder Years and Little Amigos. They also enjoyed other Center activities including ice cream socials.

Mitzi expressed being very concerned about his development. Kenniel was not social, refused to share, did not talk, would communicate by pointing, and would become combative out of frustration. She expressed, "Being in Little Amigos with Erika Caballero made an enormous difference because she found a way to engage him. I would take him out of the class out of frustration and helplessness. She would encourage me and him to come back. She always found a way to speak with him that motivated him. She would listen to my concerns and provide suggestions."

Throughout the session, Mitzi and Kenniel became increasingly engaged in the class activities. She explained that his behavior has improved immensely. Before, she would be extremely nervous and worried when bringing him to participate with other children. Now, she is not nearly as worried as when we first came because he has improved so much. She shared, "Kenniel is now sharing, interacting with children, and talking more! He is no longer crying and showing aggression. We are so relieved! He is absorbing everything – he has learned so much! His motor skills have improved! This experience has also served as preparation for school!"

Equally important, she shares how she is feeling more at peace. She says, "At every step, we have received support from the Center. You have provided links – we were able to finally get connected with the Center's assistance. He will be beginning school in October. He will continue to receive the therapies he needs as well as the socialization. We have all witnessed his improvement and transformation with the help that he has received. We needed to come to the Center to learn and we came just when we needed the Center the most."

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