



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

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FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTERS



Brandon Success Story

Safe Place to Learn & Grow



5 Protective Factors: Social and Emotional Competence of Children

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 2013, Denise and Marcel were playing at the local neighborhood park when another mom, who has since become good friends, told her about the Children's Board Family Resource Centers in Brandon. She thought that she would give it a try and has never left! Marcel and Denise have attended numerous child development playgroups provided by Baby Bungalow. They have enjoyed the classes since he was one year old beginning with Growing Together, and then other classes such as Wonder Years, Music & More, and Little Amigos.

Later in 2014, their family welcomed a baby girl, Genevieve. She would tag along with her big brother to his classes as a newborn. And then, as Genevieve became age appropriate for the other classes, she attended Music & More, Wonder Years, and Little Amigos.

Denise explains, "The classes have offered structure, routine, and taught both Marcel and Genevieve about following directions especially from a teacher. But, most of all, the Center has also been a 'safe place.' Since Genevieve had developed severe allergies to food, the Center became a safe place to socialize with easy accommodations! A lot of people here are looking out for one another and that's why I feel comfortable bringing her here! "This Center has literally been a family support center! It has provided love and education to my kids. Being a stay at home mom, providing structure and a safe place to learn and grow."

Denise tells new parents, "If you are not already going to the Center, you are missing out – it's a perfect place for kids to be in a safe environment – it offers an opportunity for a teacher to educate your child, besides the parent!"

Interestingly, the Center has also helped Genevieve transition from having her big brother at home to having to say goodbye every morning while he attends kindergarten. She would become very upset until Denise began to explain that she goes to "school" too!

Just recently, Genevieve's grandparents were speaking with her through Skype and they asked her, "How did you get to be so smart?" and she answered, "Mommy takes me to the Resource Center!"

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