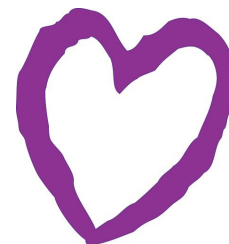




Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

www.ChildrensBoard.org

FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTERS



North Tampa Success Story

Our Favorite Place to Visit



**Principles of Family Support #2:
Staff enhance families' capacity
to support the growth and
development of all family
members, adults, youth
and 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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Last September Maria and Frank the grandparents to four year old Kris, visited the Children's Board Family Resource Center in North Tampa for the first time. They saw the sign on the door and came in to find out what we were all about. They explained that they were raising Kris since she was born and that they wanted her to interact with other children. They signed up for Story Time with Arts & Crafts and picked out all that they could join during the week and soon became frequent participants.

The family walks in several times a week with big smiles and seem happy to join in on the day's activity. Kris always walks into the Center and greets the staff with a warm hug and the most beautiful smile. Before she leaves, she has to make sure she gives us all another hug goodbye. Frank recently shared, "You have no idea how much the Center has helped Kris. She has a speech delay and before we started coming here, Kris would not speak very much even though she is in speech therapy and speaks English and Spanish. Once she started attending the playgroups, Kris blossomed." Maria added, "We love coming to the Center because everyone is nice, kind and friendly, and it is very clean."

The grandparents shared with the staff the desire to adopt Kris and they had no idea how to start nor the funds for pay for a lawyer. The Service Coordinator referred the family to Bay Area Legal Services and they were accepted into the program. They are the beginning stages of the adoption process. Maria and Frank applied for VPK for Kris — she will start in August and is making good progress in speech therapy.

Maria said, "If it wasn't for this Center, Kris would have never been ready for school. She has learned to interact with children her age and her social skills are very good. I want everyone to know about this place. At my age it is not easy starting all over again. We get tired and sometimes run out of things to do with her. We now have the Center and get to do many fun activities with Kris and we have also learned so much about parenting and teaching. The Center has been our life saver." Frank added, "North Tampa is Kris's favorite place to visit and me and my wife's too."

Maria and Frank are very dedicated grandparents and all they want is for Kris to be able to learn and be the best that she can be. They hope to finalize the adoption soon and will continue to bring Kris to the Center. They are looking forward to our exciting upcoming Summer events. Maria and Frank would like to thank the staff at North Tampa for being so kind and friendly, and for always making them feel welcomed. They say, "You all are like family. We will never forget what you have done for us."

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