



Parent/Guardian Q & A

What are the student eligibility requirements for local residential for neglected or delinquent children?

To qualify to be reported as a student in a residential institution for neglected or delinquent children, a student must meet the following two requirements:

- ◆ Be 5 to 17 years of age.
- ◆ Reside in a qualified institution for at least thirty consecutive days, at least one of which is in October of the reporting year.

Make a difference in your child's education!

Join the JJEC School Advisory Committee!

The Southwest Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Educational Centers are committed to ensuring that your student's future is bright and secure. Our school advisory committee is made up of parents and faculty members from each one of our facilities: PACE Center for Girls, AMIkids Inc., The Vince Smith Center, Price Halfway House, The SWFL Detention Center and the Lee County Jail and Stockade. What your child experiences and learns in our centers will impact their decisions for the rest of their life.

As a member of our School Advisory Committee you will:

- ◆ have your voice heard
- ◆ learn about district-wide and site-specific goals
- ◆ meet the professionals working with and for your child
- ◆ be an active participant in your child's future

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on

September 15, 2015 at 5:00 pm at the **Vince Smith Center, 2450 Prince St., Ft. Myers, FL 33916.**

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Classroom News: Vince Smith Center



It's all about that math! There is never a dull moment in the classroom at Vince Smith Center! The instructor, Ms. Barb, structures the academic classes to include hands-on, standards based projects in an effort to keep students motivated and on task. Recently in the Intensive Mathematics class students participated in an Equations Mad Libs Activity aimed at reinforcing equation problem solving skills. Students were split into teams and went from table to table solving algebraic equations. Each correct solution corresponded to a different part of an amusing story involving the center and educational staff. Student feedback regarding the academic impact of the project were positive and included the following statements: "We worked together to solve equations instead of having to figure everything out by ourselves" and "I can actually say math wasn't boring".

Student insights...

"I like this school because they are teaching me things I didn't know and I'm learning more than I was before." – D.W., 17

"School here is fun and motivating. It also helps me realize how easy school is if you just work at it." – A.C. 15

"When you don't want the change, but you know you need it, being able to get through school is an amazing experience." – J. V., 14

"I love this school. Ms. Barb and Mrs. Mel are very good teachers and help me through everything I struggle with." – J.P., 15

"I like how we have a chance to do our classes either out of the textbook or on Edgenuity. Also, I like how we can have one-on-one help if we need it." – R.A., 17

"The decisions of our pasts are the architects of our present, and this classroom is the building block we will use in the future." – T.B., 15

"I personally enjoy getting in-depth with my subjects and having great teachers to help me at any time." – A.J., 17

"I think the school at The Vince Smith Campus is good because it allows you to catch up and it's a positive environment." – H.C., 14

"Schooling here has been a blessing. Life seems to be getting easier now that I'm making a difference in my education. I am thankful for such an opportunity." – J.H., 17

"Being here is a positive thing for my education." – S.G., 16

"The teachers here at Vince Smith have great personalities. Good classroom environment." – S.M., 17

"This school is good because I learn here and it helps you catch up on your credits. I like the positive teachers." – S.S., 15

Discipline & Guidance - Teachable Moments

You may have heard the term "teachable moment" used. Parent educators and teachers often instruct parents to take advantage of "teachable moments". But what exactly is a "teachable moment", and how can you make the most of it?

A "teachable moment" can happen almost anywhere and at any time. They are generally not planned learning experiences and are not limited to academics. Chances are the most valuable moral lessons you learned from your parents were not consciously taught. They were learned while living and observing others during the midst of an ordinary day. Home, school, work, and play all provide rich opportunities for discovering teachable moments. Therefore it is vital parents train themselves to recognize and take full advantage of these moments.

Although teachable moments aren't planned, parents can learn to recognize the opportunities as they present themselves. Riding in a car with your children provides you with a "captive" audience. Because your attention is generally focused on the road, there isn't much direct eye contact. This affords everyone a little personal space as you discuss sensitive issues. Talking about popular music lyrics, last night's television program, what happened at school, and things going on around you as you drive can open a multitude of doors for constructive conversation.

If you witness a disturbing scene while at the store you can say, "Wow, did you see how she was behaving? Perhaps she is having a very bad day. How could she have handled that differently?" While grocery shopping you can have your adolescent help you keep track of spending so you can teach her about budgeting. "We can't buy both the ice cream and special cereal. Which would you rather have?" This helps children and young adults learn about making responsible choices.

Again, children are constantly watching what we do. If we are given back too much change and return it, what a wonderful opportunity for them to witness ethical behavior in action! Even better, go beyond ethical behavior and model compassionate care. Let your children see you offering aid to those in need. Let them accompany you as you visit an ailing friend or bake goodies for an elderly neighbor. Practice random acts of kindness and the fruits of your labors will reach generations to come!



The University of Alabama, Parenting Assistance Line, "Discipline & Guidance Teachable Moments"
<http://www.pal.ua.edu/discipline/teachable.php>

Calendar of Events

August 17 - 18, 2015	Professional Duty Day - Students in class
August 19 - 20, 2015	Inservice Day - Students in class
August 21, 2015	Professional Duty Day - Students in Class
September 7, 2015	Labor Day - No class for students
September 15, 2015	JJEC School Advisory Committee Meeting


JJEC Information

All Department of Juvenile Justice Sites receive funding from Title 1, Part D, Local and State Neglected/Delinquent Allocations.

Title 1 Part D

The Juvenile Justice Educational Centers are funded in part by Title I Part D. This funding is used to carry out highly qualified educational programs to prepare students for secondary school completion and activities to transition the student from the correctional programs to further their education or employment. The proposed 2015-2016 Title I Part D grant will provide professional development training, supplemental instruction in math, tutoring services, equipment, and supplies.

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