



Families
Respect
Inspire
Educating
Networking *for*
Down syndrome &
Special needs
WEST FLORIDA

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is non-profit 501c3, private operating foundation that was founded in 2007 by parents of children impacted by Down Syndrome. We are one of the leading voices for Down Syndrome & Special Needs in the West Florida area and proudly serve Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. MISSION

Our Mission is to provide educational and support services to new parents and families. To empower Special needs individuals and help them become more independent. To promote community integration and together celebrate the lives of people impacted with Down Syndrome & Special Needs.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. GOALS

Our goals provide a foundation on which we will meet the demands of the future.

- To provide accurate and up-to-date information to families.
- To change people's attitudes about Special Needs Individuals and promote respect and esteem.
- To enable people with Special Needs to speak up and be heard.
- To help Special Needs individuals become a productive part of society.
- To train volunteers to represent and promote "best practice" programs in meeting the needs of all individuals with Special Needs and their families.
- To offer a safe, positive and welcoming environment where our families can build lasting friendships and experience the joy of getting together.
- To create a community that embraces, supports, and inspires individuals with Special Needs to live happy, healthy, full-filling lives.

OUR VALUES

- We are **TRUSTWORTHY** in our daily responsibilities.
- We use **EMPATHY** in our interactions and **RESPECT** toward others in all that we do.
- We **COLLABORATE** and create **PARTNERSHIPS** within our community.
- We are **DEVOTED**, investing our time, effort and energy to our mission

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. PROGRAMS

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. PARENT PACKETS PROGRAM - We provide free FRIENDS Parent Packets which are filled with Down Syndrome materials and Special Needs resource information. For new and expectant parents receiving a diagnosis of Down syndrome, the packet includes a free copy of the book “Babies with Down Syndrome, A New Parents Guide”. Available in English/Spanish.



PARENT LIAISON PROGRAM – Upon request our Parent Liaisons offer peer to peer support for new and expectant parents, grandparents, and other family members. A bilingual Parent Liaison is available.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. PRESENTATIONS - We offer Down Syndrome presentations to the medical community. To request a packet, parent liaison, or presentation, send your request to info@friendssupport.org or call (727)463-1707.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. SCHOLARSHIPS - FDSWF provides financial support through our scholarships to help offset the costs of Special Needs conferences, Recreational Programs, Educational programs, Medical Programs, Hope Haven Clinic Evaluation, Hardship Fund, Buddy Walk Registration and College Tuition for individuals with Down Syndrome.

We understand that a strong support system can make a great impact in the lives of parents raising a special needs child. We provide connection and support through our monthly Playgroups and Social Clubs.

❖ **BABY FRIENDS PROGRAM** - for the birth to 5yrs– Meets monthly at We Rock the Spectrum (Brandon & Largo) and LoLo's Play Place (Brandon).

❖ **AFTER SCHOOL SPECIALS** - for all ages; Meets for fun outings throughout the year.



❖ **FRIENDS SELF-ADVOCATES (FSC) DANCES**

Available for *all special need's young adults*, 15yrs and up and meets monthly at Livingstone Academy's in Brandon and at The Oakhurst United Methodist Church in Seminole. For more info call Ann Foyt (813)245-2782.

❖ **DADS** - Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome or D.A.D.S. is to assist and support, through fellowship and action, the fathers and families of individuals with Down syndrome.



❖ **F.R.I.E.N.D.S. - DOWN SYNDROME ESPANOLA** - Bienvenido a la zona española de la Asociación FRIENDS - Down Syndrome West Florida para el área de Pinellas, Tampa y Pasco. La misión de F.R.I.E.N.D.S. - Down Syndrome West Florida proporcionará servicios educativos y de apoyo que abarquen a todas las familias afectadas por el Síndrome de Down; al tiempo que promueve la integración completa de la comunidad de las personas afectadas por el síndrome de Down. En esta área, queremos compartir los artículos y la información sobre el Síndrome de Down. Esperamos que esta sección te sea útil. Para obtener ayuda en español envíe un correo electrónico a belinda@friendssupport.org.

To find an event, visit our webpage calendar, www.friendssupport.org or go onto our Facebook Events page, or call (813)245-2782.

THANK YOU 2019 BUDDY WALK SPONSORS!

THANK YOU 2019 INKING BUDDY WALK SPONSORS!

THANK YOU 2019 PARTNERS!

5TH ANNUAL

F.R.I.E.N.D.S.
Families, Respect, Inspire, Education, Networking for Down syndrome & Special needs

BUDDYWALK[®]
national down syndrome society[®]
EDUCATE | ADVOCATE | CELEBRATE

(813)245-2782
WWW.FRIENDSSUPPORT.ORG

TOP 5 BUDDY WALK TEAMS 2019

The Inspiring Team
#1 0111-1111
#2 0111-1111
#3 0111-1111
#4 0111-1111
#5 0111-1111

We thank you for your dedication, hardwork, & support!

BUDDY WALK

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. - Down Syndrome West Florida, together with the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) are happy to announce the Buddy Walk every March. More than 2,000 families, friends, and professionals are anticipated to attend this event, making it one of over 250 walks taking place across the country to raise awareness, acceptance and inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome in their communities.

**Ninety-three percent of every dollar raised by F.R.I.E.N.D.S. - DOWN SYNDROME WEST FLORIDA serves our West Florida community. Five percent of every dollar raised is sent to National Down Syndrome Society for national advocacy and support efforts.*

SPONSORS

We Need You! Your company can reach a large, loyal audience in a fun and upbeat atmosphere while supporting the mission of FDSWF. There are many ways your business or organization can be a part of the Buddy Walk, from sponsorship packages, to forming a team, to much more! Thank you for supporting FDSWF. Your donations help to provide funds for:

- Printed materials for packets and presentations.
- Support for our playgroups, social clubs.
- Educational presentations for our physicians, nurses, and community.
- Scholarship Funds
- Community activities, picnics, and parties.
- July 4th & Christmas Parade Floats.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. DOWN SYNDROME WEST FLORIDA P.O. BOX 677 BRANDON FL 33509 (813) 245-2782
info@friendssupport.org www.fdswf.org FRIENDS SUPPORT, INC EIN#651261646



Tampa Bay Resource List

Alzheimer's/Down Syndrome Family Advocate

Jadene S. Ransdell - Down syndrome/Alzheimer's Family Advocate

(727)543-4174 ntgfamilyadvocate@gmail.com

Aging with Down Syndrome – nanadeenie.blogspot

Down syndrome & Alzheimer's Dementia Capable Support – Facebook Group

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Suncoast Region

(Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco) (813) 233-4319; 1313 N. Tampa St. #515 Tampa FL 33602

www.APDcares.org/resource directory. APD works with local communities and private providers to support people who have developmental disabilities and their families in living, learning, and working in their communities. APD also aids in identifying the needs of people with developmental disabilities for supports and services so they can reach their full potential. The agency also works to educate the public on disability issues and focuses attention on employment for people with disabilities. APD provides:

- Medicaid HCBS Waiver through iBudget Florida
- Placement in an intermediate care facility for those with developmental disabilities.
- Supported employment services
- Supported living services

Helpful Phone numbers: Log onto <http://411.myflorida.com/apps/411/tel411.public> 411 (866)693-6748 to get phone numbers for Florida state agencies.

Resources: Log onto www.211tampabay.org or call 2-1-1- to find out about help with food, housing, employment, health care, counseling and more. 14155 58th St N Suite 211 Clearwater Florida 33760, Phone 727-210-4233.

Need a Job? Log onto www.rehabworks.org or call 800-451-4327 for help getting or keeping a job.

Bay Area Early Steps (birth to 3yrs)

<https://www.hopkinsallchildrens.org/services/west-central-early-steps>

Regional FRS : Paula B Keyser (727) 767-4403

All Children's Hospital Center for Child Development

480 7th Ave S St Petersburg, FL 33701

Email: achearlysteps@jhmi.edu

Best Buddies - Tampa Office

200 South Hoover Boulevard, Suite 191 Tampa, FL 33609 florida@bestbuddies.org

Phone: 813.254.9025 Fax: 813. 254.9085 Area Director – Shane Fletcher

Services One to one friendships with a nondisabled peer for one year; activities for pairs and groups; Programs for middle, high school, college, citizens, and jobs. Supported Employment opportunities; e-Buddies online.

Buddy Cruise - <http://www.buddycruise.org>; (877) 239-2789 Buddy Cruise Inc. serves families and friends of individuals with Down syndrome and developmental delay. We are a 501c3 non profit charity. It is our purpose to provide education and promote public awareness by arranging and conducting special events, namely cruises. These events will be a forum for prominent educational speakers addressing a wide range of Down syndrome and disability related topics. We encourage self- advocate sessions. Buddy Cruise, ideally, will set sail each October, National Down syndrome awareness month, to honor those who are touched by Down syndrome.

Bright Expectations

Bright Expectations is Florida's site dedicated to helping our residents with unique abilities find support, resources, and inspiration. **Website:** <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/people-with-disabilities/bright-expectations/index.html>

Children's Medical Services (727) 469-5800 www.floridahealth.gov

A collection of special programs for eligible children with special needs. We have a variety of services for expecting moms, newborn babies, infants and toddlers, school-aged children, adolescents and young adults. All of our services are provided by highly qualified physicians, nurses, social workers and other health care providers around the state. Through our family-centered programs, we make sure your child gets the care he or she needs.

Easter Seals – Tampa

2403 E. Henry Ave; Tampa, FL 33610; Phone: (813)988-7633 Fax: (813)914-0403

Primary Contact: Chantel Stampfer

Offers Childcare, Early Intervention, Child development centers, Speech, PT, OT

Ages birth to school age. Cost: Florida child scholarships; private tuition; Medicaid/Medicare.

Easter Seals Southwest Florida

Adult Day Training at Easter Seals Southwest Florida provides a variety of activities and social interactions, reflecting the needs and goals of adults with disabilities, including educational programs, recreational outings, community volunteering, working on service contracts, and creating art, guided by our art instructor. We create solutions and change lives. Website: www.swfl.easterseals.com

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. DOWN SYNDROME WEST FLORIDA P.O. BOX 677 BRANDON FL 33509 (813) 245-2782
info@friendssupport.org www.fdswf.org FRIENDS SUPPORT, INC EIN#651261646

FAAST Florida Alliance for Assistive Services (866) 732-88734202 E. Fowler Ave, Tampa FL 33620
Improve the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities through awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology. Hands on assistive technology, demonstrations, and trainings. Assistive device lending programs and no charge.

ME & U FITNESS ACADEMY – Join Tina Tallman as she builds a community based children’s fitness academy to help all children become fit through music, dance, and laughter.
www.meandusfitnessacademy.com. Tina Tallman – (727)643-8794.

DREAMMS For Kids, Inc

www.dreamms.org Assistive technology for special needs children.
Family Center on Technology and Disability www.fctd.info
Information on assistive technology for special needs children.

FDLRS – Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System Gulfcoast Associate Center

Home office address: 2929 County Rd 193 Clearwater, FL 33759
Parent Liaison: Mary Massimo Manager: Kristen Redding
Phone # (727) 793-2773 www.pcsb.org/fdlrsgulfcoast

The Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System is a discretionary project of the Florida Department of Education that provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to district exceptional education programs and families of students with disabilities. FDLRS Gulfcoast is one of nineteen service centers statewide that directly serves Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando Counties

Pinellas County Schools – <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/848>

Pinellas County Schools ESE Parent Services: Tracy McMannus, (727) 588-6062, email,mcmannust@pcsb.org.

The Pinellas County Schools Office of Exceptional Student Education strives to provide stakeholders with valuable information to promote highest student achievement for students with disabilities.
Be involved by creating an ongoing line of communication with your student’s educational providers. Each ESE student is assigned a classroom teacher and case manager. Your child’s classroom teacher can give you the name of your child’s case manager if needed. The case manager can provide information regarding your child’s IEP, services providers, and progress, as well as assist the IEP team in monitoring student progress. Unresolved concerns can be addressed at an IEP meeting coordinated through the school-based case manager. Ongoing concerns can be brought to the attention of the school-based administrator, ESE liaison, IDEA Team Leader, or the assigned area superintendent.

CEC Suncoast (Council for Exceptional Children)

President: Julie Bush - Bushju@pcsb.org

Florida’s Voice on Developmental Disabilities

ARLENE LAKIN, ESQ.-President PO Box 24531 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307; (954) 975-5159
E-mail: FVDDorg@aol.com; Website: www.Floridasvoice.org

A statewide independent advocacy and networking non-profit organization comprised of families and friends of persons with developmental disabilities. Our organization advocates a full array of services in the most cost effective manner possible - community programs, family home care, group homes, and larger centers (over six beds) for only the most severely developmentally disabled. Cost: \$25 family membership fee; \$15 for those with financial hardships

GiGi's Playhouse Tampa

Down syndrome achievement centers; changing lives through free, results-driven programs for individuals of all ages, families and communities. GiGi's Playhouse is an inspirational and dedicated place for families to celebrate their child and benefit from free programs that unleash joy, confidence and continuous improvement. Nicki Rawlings, President; nrawlings@gigisplayhouse.org; 813-843-7629

Goodwill Industries

727-523-1512/888-279-1988 The mission is accomplished through employment services, training programs and affordable housing. Headquartered in St. Petersburg, we provide services to people in 10 counties – Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Polk, Hernando, Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Levy and Highlands counties.

Head Start/Early Head Start/Pinellas County

(727) 547-5900 2210 Tall Pines Drive Suite 200 Largo, FL. 33771-5347

Head Start/Early Head Start assists children with all types of disabilities including but not limited to those with developmental, hearing, language, and visual disabilities as well as emotional, medical, mental, and social needs. Enrolled children with special needs are provided with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and/or Individual Family Support Plans (IFSP). Children with special needs are given the same opportunities to participate in the classroom as other children and if necessary, modifications may be made to make their experience a fun filled learning one. The Special Needs Advisory Committee meets quarterly to guide these efforts.

IEP Advocate

Claudia Roberts Special Ed Advocate Phone # 512-784-2480
701 S Howard Ave Ste 106-349
Tampa Florida 33606

SPECIAL NEEDS ATTORNEY

Mark Kamleiter – Special Education Law and Advocacy
Phone # 727 323-2555
Website : WWW.flspedlaw.com
2509 1st Ave S
St Petersburg Florida 32371

Jewish Community Centers and Federation-Pinellas

13191 Starkey Rd Ste 8 Largo, Florida 33773 | jewishpinellas.org
Phone # 727-530-3223

We work to strengthen family life, promote the health, education and welfare of our membership and our community. Family counseling, job skills for developmentally delayed.

McDonalds Training MTC

(813) 870-1300 | Fax (813) 872-6010

5420 W. Cypress Street; Tampa, Florida 33607-1706

Primary areas of service include educational, vocational and residential supports for persons with disabilities. MTC day services includes vocational skills training and life enrichment activities from computer lab and fine arts instruction to recreational outreaches for people with developmental disabilities. Additionally, MTC provides supported employment counseling and placement services for people with a wide variety of disabilities. Provide people in community living the opportunity and resources to lease their home or apartment, pay their own expenses, make their own decisions, and receive services that promote choice and self-sufficiency.

The Arc / Uparc Agency

1501 N. Belcher Road, Suite 249 Clearwater, FL 33765 Phone: 727.799.3330

The Arc Tampa Bay has a long history of advocacy efforts in support of our mission. As a service provider for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 58 years, The Arc Tampa Bay has been a key affiliate member of The Arc of Florida. Affiliate members have a voting seat on The Arc of Florida Board and are affiliated with The Arc of the United States. Thank you for your interest in our organization. We invite you to learn more about the history) of our organization and the services we provide in support of our mission.

Medicaid

Pinellas County Health Human Services

2189 Cleveland St Ste # 230 Clearwater Florida 33756

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/humanservices/default.htm>

Medicaid is the medical assistance program that provides access to health care for low-income families and individuals. Medicaid assists people with disabilities with the cost of nursing facility care and other medical and long term care expenses.

Medicaid Waiver Programs

800-342-0778 <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/BrainSC/Medicaid/ACFHomepage.htm> The Home and Community Based Services Waiver, also called the HCBS/DD Waiver or "Big" Waiver, is one of Florida's Medicaid Waiver Programs that assists people who have disabilities. The HCBS/DD Medicaid waiver program helps cover the cost for things that regular Medicaid does not pay for.

The HCBS Waiver currently has 28 services^[1] and there is a spending cap based on the individual's needs. However, services must be "medically necessary".

Individuals that meet the following criteria are eligible to receive services under the Home and Community Based Services Waiver:

- Be under 65 years of age
- Reside in a Diversion Project service area
- Be a Florida resident

- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified noncitizen
- File for any other benefits to which they may be entitled
- Disclose any rights to third party liability (i.e., health insurance)
- Meet the income limit of \$2022 for an individual or \$4044 for a couple
- Meet the asset limit of \$2000 for an individual or \$3000 for an eligible couple
- If your monthly income exceeds \$2022/month you still can benefit from Medicaid Diversion by setting up an income trust. This is a legal document and it must be done by an attorney^[2]

In 2012 there was a waiting list of over 22,000 people for this waiver.^[3] Some of the people on the waiting list receive services from the FSL waiver.

Parent Support Center

727) 523-1130 2196 Main Street, Suite L, Dunedin FL 34698; This program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), is the Parent Training Information (PTI) center for the Central and Northeast of Florida, (Brevard, Citrus, De Soto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Manatee, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie, and Sumter). These PTI services help to ensure that parents of children with the full range of disabilities have the training and information they need to prepare their children for not only school, but to be able to lead productive, independent lives to the fullest extent possible.

Largo Parks and Recreation - <http://www.largo.com/departments/index.php?structureid=22>

Highland Recreation Complex

Manager: Chip Potts

400 Highland Ave Largo, Florida 33770

Phone # 727-518-3016

Southwest Recreation Complex

13120 Vonn Rd Largo, Florida 33774

Phone# 727-518-3125

Adaptive Activities:

Manager: Jessica Newsome Email: jnewsome@largo.com

Program Supv: Megan Leavy Email: mleary@largo.com

Through its facilities, cultural center, park system and sports complexes, the Recreation, Parks & Arts Department offers opportunities for individualized leisure pursuits, and passive enjoyment of the natural environment.

Quest's Camp Thunderbird

909 E. Welch Rd., Apopka, FL 32712. 407-889-8088. campthunderbird@questinc.org Camp for persons with developmental disabilities. Quest, Inc. 1404 Tech Blvd., Tampa, FL 33619 813-630-4710. Housing, Adult Day Training, Camp Thunderbird. www.questinc.org Suncoast New Options. 9502 N. Florida Ave., Tampa, FL 33612 813-933-1476.

Pinellas Life- Group Homes

<http://www.pinellaslife.com/group-homes/>

Deirdre Cavener, MCP

Founder and Owner of PinellasLife.com

Ridgeland Group Home, Inc.

Carol Josephs (813) 810-6257

Adult Day Training center in Brandon Florida. Ridgeland Group Home and its staff are dedicated people striving to provide clients the opportunity for a meaningful life through various supports needed to improve their quality of life. We hope to accomplish this by exposing them to various experiences and, education that would enable them to achieve individual goals.

Royal Care Group Home

813-623-6333 Licensed Standard & Behavior Focus homes and provide a variety of Supportive Residential & Community Based Services for adults in South Tampa, Brandon & Plant City. We currently serve males 18 + and adult females on a case by case basis. We are dedicated to providing quality supportive services in comfortable homes.

Sunrise Community of Hillsborough County

2714 West Kirby Street Tampa, Florida 33614 Phone: (813) 830-7823 hillsborough@sunrisegroup.org

<http://www.sunrisegroup.org>. Group homes; Respite; adult training programs; Behavioral Analysis Services; Personal Assistance services; day services; and transportation.

Quest Training and Group Home

1404 Tech Blvd. Tampa, FL 33619 contact@questinc.org (813) 423.7700; Quest provides a variety of residential living options for people with disabilities, including group homes, intermediate care facilities and transitional and support environments. Quest's vocational program provides individuals with disabilities in the Orlando and Tampa areas the opportunity applies job skills and gain meaningful employment through the Adult Day Training (ADT) and the Supported Employment programs.

Social Security

www.ssa.gov; 1-800-772-1213 2340 Drew St, Clearwater, FL 33765 ; The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. Visit Apply For Disability Benefits – Child (Under Age 18) to find out how to apply.

Special Olympics

Special Olympics Florida – Pinellas County 2235 N.E. Coachman Rd. Clearwater, FL 33765

<http://specialolympicsflorida.org/pinellas/>

David Haines County Director 727-669-1221 x2008

Roger Edwards Area 6 Training Director 727-465-3422

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition to children and adults 8 years of age and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Cost is free, need a doctor's clearance on physical exam, sometimes provided free of charge.

Suddenly Transportation - <http://suddenlytransportation.com> ; (727) 452-4328; Serves Saint Petersburg, FL and nearby areas. We are a family owned & operated business in Pinellas County. We provide several types of safe and reliable private transportation services. Suddenly Transportation drivers are thoroughly background checked, licensed & insured. We own clean and comfortable 15 passenger vans, equipped with dash cams for added safety.

Sunshine Line Transportation

Scott Clark Director P: 813-272-7272

Reservation Hours Monday – Friday 8 AM - 5 PM

Provides door-to-door transportation and bus passes for elderly, low-income, and disabled persons who do not have or cannot afford their own transportation. Transportation is provided primarily to medical appointments and Aging Services day care and nutrition sites, but nonmedical trips are provided on a space-available basis. Sunshine Line does not provide Medicaid transportation.

Fees & Eligibility- Vehicles used for door-to-door service are wheelchair accessible. Fees are charged for some trips; the amount of the fee charged is based on client eligibility and funding source rules. Clients may call to be screened for eligibility and to make appointments for transportation or to request a bus pass.

PSTA

3201 Scherer Drive St. Petersburg, FL 33716 <https://www.psta.net/programs/accessibility/>

Phone: 727-540-1800

InfoLine: 727-540-1900

Email: cserv@psta.net

Agencies Federal Transportation Administration Michele Ogilvie 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 18th floor, Tampa, FL 33602. Call: 813-272-5940 ext 317. Email: ogilviem@plancom.org

TSA

855-787-2227 The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has a toll free helpline designed to assist travelers with disabilities and medical conditions, prior to getting to the airport. It is available Monday through Friday 9am–9pm EST, excluding federal holidays, with questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint.

The USF Regional Genetics and Metabolism

(813) 259-8772 2 Tampa General Circle, 2nd Floor Tampa, FL 33606; Usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics

Established in 1977 to provide comprehensive medical management to individuals and families with a genetic condition. This includes an initial evaluation and examination, genetic testing as appropriate, genetic counseling and follow up as appropriate.

Van Dyke Church Special Needs Ministry

17030 Lakeshore Rd., Lutz, FL 33558. www.vandyke.org jatkinson@tampabay.rr.com.
Embrace Special Needs Respite Care ggharmon@vandyke.org 813-968-3983 x 156.

Vocational Rehabilitation Florida Department of Education

1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 801 Tampa, FL 33602 Phone: (813) 233-3600

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal-state program that helps people who have physical or mental disabilities get or keep a job. VR is committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful careers.

VSA Arts of Florida

<http://www.vsafl.org> - Brings the arts into the lives of people with disabilities.

FLORIDA SPECIAL NEEDS WEBSITES

Able Trust of Florida www.abletrust.org

Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities www.advocacycenter.org

Best Buddies bestbuddies.org

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services www.fldoe.org

Career Education for Students with Special Needs www.myfloridaeducation.com

Family Network on Disabilities, Inc (birth to 26) <http://fndfl.org>

FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged www.dot.state.fl.us/ctd

FL Department of Health www.doh.state.fl.us/family

FL Diagnostic and Learning Resource www.paec.org/fdlrsweb

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council www.fddc.org

Florida Developmental Disabilities Resources www.flddresources.org

Florida's Voice on Developmental Disabilities www.floridasvoice.org

Florida Center for Inclusive Communities flfcic.fmhi.usf.edu

Family Care Council www.fccflorida.org

Hillsborough County's Head Start <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/headstart/>

Job Accommodation Network www.askjan.org

Kidcare www.floridakidcare.org

Learning Disabilities www.ldonline.org

Macdonald Training Center www.macdonaldcenter.org

Medicaid www.cms.gov/special

National Organization on Disability <http://www.nod.org/>

Project Appleseed www.projectappleseed.org

The Pacer Center www.pacer.org/index.asp

Social Security www.socialsecurity.gov

Shriner's Hospital for Children www.shrinershq.org

State Agency for Workforce www.floridajobs.org

School to Work Transitions www.rehabworks.org

Special Olympics specialolympicsflorida.org/Hillsborough

Teaching Resources for FL Exceptional Student Education <http://www.cpt.fsu.edu/ese/>

Tops Soccer www.topsoccer.usa

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program www.doh.state.fl.us/family/wic

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WEBSITES

ABLE Account www.ablenrc.org.
Administration on Developmental Disabilities www.acf.dhh.gov
American Speech/Language/Hearing Assoc. www.asha.org
American Occupational Therapy Assoc. www.apta.org
ARC of United States www.thearc.org
Council for Disability Rights www.disabilityrights.org
Dating for the Disabled www.dating4disabled.com
Down Syndrome Research Foundation www.dsrf.org
Family Network on Disabilities (birth to 26yrs) www.fndfl.org
Global Down Syndrome Foundations info@globaldownsyndrome.org
IDEA www.ideapartnershop.org
Learning Disabilities Association of America info@ldaamerica.org
March of Dimes www.marchofdimes.com
National Association for Down Syndrome www.nads.org
National Ataxia Foundations www.ataxia.org
National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities www.nichcy.org/babies
National link for information about law www.fape.org
National Down Syndrome Congress www.ndsccenter.org
National Down Syndrome Society www.ndss.org
National Organization on Disability www.nod.org
National Resource for Parents www.zerotothree.org
National Society of Genetic Counselors www.nsgc.org
National Info Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities www.nichcy.org
Parent Support Network (PSN) Project www.parentcenter.org
Social Security www.myflorida.com
Technical Assistance Alliance, Parent Centers www.taalliance.org
Technology for Children www.kidsmartearlylearning.org
Teens Against Bullying www.pacerteensagainstbullying.org
Wrights law www.wrightslaw.com
Yes! Of American United, Inc. www.yesunited.org

EDUCATIONAL REFERENCES

Down Syndrome Books www.woodbinehouse.com
Babies with Down Syndrome – A New Parents Guide by Karen Stray-Gunersen
Medical and Surgical Care for Children with Down Syndrome by Philip Mattheis, M.D.

SCHOOLS

Pinellas County - The ESE Resource Connection is a resource that provides families and persons with disabilities specific resource information, community events and opportunities. This webpage is located on the Pinellas County School Exceptional Student Education site at <http://www.pcsb.org/Page/16045>. There is an option for anyone interested to get automatic notifications of updates. The only action required is that

interested persons subscribe to webpage content. The RSS feed that is located in the ESE Resource Connection page.

Anyone interested will need to go to the PCSB Exceptional Student Education Resource Connection page found at <http://www.pcsb.org/Page/16045> directly or 1Go to the Pinellas County School Board Home Page at <http://www.pcsb.org/Page/1>

- 1) Click on Departments & Divisions
- 2) Scroll down the page to Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and choose
- 3) Scroll down the short cut column to ESE Resource Connection and choose
- 4) Subscribe for the RSS feed (orange icon) for automatic notifications

Center Academy (2 locations)

6710 86th Ave, Pinellas Park, FL 33782 (727) 541-5716

34054 US Hwy 19 N, Palm Harbor, FL 34684 (727) 781-2986 <http://centeracademy.com/>

Center Academy is a fully accredited, independent private school, family-operated since 1968, providing a college prep curriculum for students with learning disabilities in grades 4-12. Our staff and teachers are experienced with a range of learning disabilities and challenges, including dyslexia, ADHD, and autism spectrum / Asperger's, and our individual student assessment helps each student to set and reach his or her own personal educational goals. We also offer dual enrollment and summer programs for maximum enrichment, and accept McKay, Gardiner, FTC, Step Up, AAA and Georgia Special Needs Scholarships. If you are looking for a well-rounded educational experience that will give your child the support and motivation he or she needs to succeed, please contact us today to learn more.

Classical Christian School For The Arts 4981 78th Ave N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781 (727) 547-6820
<http://www.ccsa.us/>

Founded on faith-based principles and believing in the equality of all persons before God, Classical Christian School for the Arts is non-denominational and is committed to providing a Christian education for all students regardless of race, sex, or religious background. We believe the task of Christian Education is shared by the school, the church, and the home. We believe in the development of the whole child and seek to involve students individually and collectively in activities which allow them growth – intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual. We believe that the avenues to understanding and knowledge are diverse. We believe in a Christian liberal arts education, exposing students to various viewpoints under the guidance and interpretation of a Christian teacher who will relate the material to the level of understanding of the student. "Test all things; hold fast what is good." (I Thess. 5:21) We believe learning is a lifelong process. We believe in the importance of building genuine Christian maturity by stressing a reliance on God's love and grace and a conscientious pursuit of truth and excellence.

Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf 14088 Icot Blvd, Clearwater, FL 33760 (727) 539-7879
<http://www.blossomschool.org/>

At Blossom, we believe that every child can learn. We also believe that any child can easily be left behind and because of this, we implement an extremely individualized course of study for each child. Our philosophy of combining the programming of Montessori with expertise in Deaf education creates the perfect environment for our students. Each child is treated as an individual and we strive to do everything it takes to advance every child to his or her maximum potential.

Morning Star School 4661 80th Ave N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781 (727) 544-6036

<http://www.morningstarschool.org/>

Morning Star Catholic School, a mission of the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, recognizes the unique educational needs of students. The administration, faculty, staff, and parents work together to provide an ungraded academic curriculum in which students can achieve their potential academically, socially, and spiritually. MSSPP is dedicated to helping our students develop into educated, well-rounded, productive and successful members of society. We offer a caring, Christian learning environment where kids are able to succeed. The positive is accentuated to help our students recognize their potential. We understand that children with special education requirements need more care and attention than is often offered in a traditional school setting. These students necessitate individualized instruction from caring professionals who are trained to understand and meet each student's unique needs.

Tampa:

Focus Academy info@focusacademytampa.org (813) 433-5558 The curriculum at Focus Academy is structured with dual purposes: academic achievement and social success. Many students are scholastically capable but are hindered by struggles in dealing with peers

Morning Star Academy – A mission of the Catholic Diocese. Children with special needs who have learning disabilities and developmental delays. 210 E Linebaugh Ave, Tampa, FL 33612; Phone: (813) 935-0232 or 4661 80th Ave. North, Pinellas Park FL 33781 (727)544-6036

Livingstone Academy 813-661-4200 - is an independent, non-profit, Private School that specializes in serving the unique needs of children with learning disabilities. Livingstone Academy serves students in grades 1-8; providing a continuum of services based on the individual requirements of each student. (Our Seffner campus serves students in grades 1st through 12th) We provide a positive learning environment for students with Specific Learning Disabilities, Autism, Asperger's, Down Syndrome, Speech and Language disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Emotional/Social disorders and Cognitive and/or Developmental delays. (813)404-1598; www.livingstoneschools.org.

Pepin Academy – 813-236-1755 Serves over 700 students between 3rd and 12th grade, and young adults 18 to 22 with specific learning disabilities. Approximately 80% of our students graduate with a standard high school diploma, and we provide individualized instruction, along with all the services your child needs to succeed and the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities. 3916 East Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa, FL 33610

Special Needs School List - For a list of special needs schools in your area log onto:

<http://www.privateschoolreview.com/florida/special-education-private-schools>.

CHARITIES & CONFERENCES

- Deliver The Dream - Offers an all-expense paid weekend retreat for families. Contact@deliverthedream.org
- Sunshine Foundation Dream Villages – Offers an all-expense paid family vacation in Orlando, Florida@sunshinefoundation.org.
- Family Café Conference – yearly conference for families with children who have disabilities. When you register, you can apply for assistance to cover the cost of the hotel room, www.familycafe.net