

Achieving Quality Education at an Early Age

Written by F. Justin Ossmann



They sit haphazardly upon the circular rug, as much a pile of small bodies as any organized group. Some are seated with their legs crossed, while others balance on their knees, striving to see over the heads and shoulders of their peers. All mouths are curled into smiles. All eyes are glued to the instructor, who sits in an undersized chair at the front of the group. At first, everyone is silent, waiting for the right moment to begin.

And then, the group starts singing about vegetables.

This may sound like a scene from summer camp or an informal sleepover, but it is just another day at the Achievements Learning Center. A pre-elementary school educational establishment serving the North Port and Charlotte County areas, Achievements is a non-profit Florida Gold Seal, nationally-accredited institution. Children as young as 8 weeks learn under a curriculum that combines playful interaction and hand-on activities with math, science and literacy education, and with physical fitness. Songs are sung, books are read, and experiments are conducted, all in a safe, monitored setting overseen by a staff of highly-educated teachers (every member of the Achievements staff holds at least a Child Development Associates Degree (CDA) or a college degree in early childhood education. Additionally, all staff members are CPR and First Aid certified.

"We endeavor to provide our students, especially the youngest ones, with a curriculum that encourages physical, cognitive and social development," explains Tiffany Profita, B.S. "Our goal is to expose these children to a vast array of learning experiences, in order to promote language, creativity and self-discovery."

Achievements Learning Center was founded in 2001 by Tiffany and TinaRae Gregoire, M.Ed. It remains one of the largest Florida Voluntary Pre-K providers in south Sarasota County. Achievements partners with several community organizations to promote parental involvement and community awareness, including All Faiths Food Bank and the Sarasota Reading Festival.

Research shows that high-quality early learning experiences can help children develop basic knowledge, understanding and interest that will carry over into elementary school and beyond. Priming children at an early age to become successful learners, readers and writers is an important part of building a strong foundation for future educational success. Just as no one is ever too old to learn something new, no one is too young to start learning.

"Our goal at Achievements is to build the future, one child at a time," maintains Tiffany. "There is a need for quality education and early development programs, and more than anything else, that is what we strive to achieve."

Achievements Learning Center is located at 2600 Bobcat Village Center Road. Achievements is an Accredited Professional Preschool Learning

Environment (APPLE), and is licensed and regulated by the Department of Children and Families and the Environmental Health Department. Achievements is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Part-time and full-time programs are both available. For more information, please contact Achievements at (941) 423-8844 or visit www.achievementslearningcenter.org.

2008-2009 Registration

Achievements Learning Center is proud to announce that registration is open for the 2008-2009 educational session. Classes are scheduled to begin on August 18, the same day as Sarasota County public schools, and will run through May 29. To sign your child up for free voluntary pre-K educational program, call (941) 423-8844 today.



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