

Who are the Teachers in Learning Centers?

Learning Center teachers are trained in Special Education instruction and law. They are mild/moderate endorsed teachers. Extensive training is provided for Learning Center teachers in specialized instructional strategies, behavior management, mental illness and managing crises.

What happens now?

Once you and your school team have written a statement indicating the decision for a Learning Center, the case manager will review the file and recommendation with a district team. After this review, you will be notified via mail or email of the newly assigned school and the new teacher. Your current case manager will schedule a meeting with the new school and you to hold a transition meeting. After this meeting, you and your new teacher will coordinate a starting date for your child and arrange for transportation if necessary.

Who may I contact for further questions?

Lorie Coates – Coordinator for Learning Centers (801-402-5151)

Kim Rich – Teacher Specialist for Elementary Learning Centers (801-402-5151)

Emilee Midget – Teacher Specialist for Secondary Learning Centers (801-402-5151)

Patty Arbon – Supervisor over Self-Contained Programs (801-402-5169)

Davis School District Learning Centers

For students whose educational needs go beyond Resource and General Education programming.



What is a Learning Center?

You and your school team are considering or have made the decision that your child's educational needs go beyond what resource and general education can provide alone. A Learning Center is a Self-Contained classroom for students with mild/moderate disabilities.

Do not panic! Learning Centers are structured much like a general education classroom with additional supports for your child. The students in Learning Centers have varying disabilities ranging from Autism to Learning Disabilities to Emotional Disturbances. Learning Centers teach both special education and general education curriculum.

Students are typically placed on a Level System for behavioral change. Participation in mainstreaming opportunities is contingent upon performance within this system. Student expectations are clearly defined and the student must perform and maintain at these expected levels to increase the likelihood of success in a mainstream classroom.

In addition to the Level system, individual and group reinforcement programs are used to encourage and support positive behavioral expectations. Instructional strategies are also implemented to improve expected behaviors.

Being in a Learning Center is a new and challenging situation for both students and parents. By reviewing the information in this pamphlet, we hope to help alleviate any concerns you may have.

What about significant behavior in the Learning Center?

While many behavior challenges are reduced by consistent implementation of a good level system and other supports; sometimes, our students may continue to exhibit significant behavioral concerns. Occasionally, reductive techniques such as privilege removal, seat away and time out procedures are used. The philosophy of Learning Centers is that positive programming will alleviate many negative behaviors; however, some reductive techniques are needed in certain situations.

Our teachers are trained in crisis management and all strategies will be used to keep your child and others safe.

What do I tell my child before he/she is placed in a Learning Center?

Perhaps, the most critical conversations are those we have with our children and discussing a new classroom is very critical to your child's success. When talking about the new classroom (and possibly new school), help your child to understand that this classroom is designed to meet his/her unique needs. Depending on your child's situation, you may also share that the classroom is not intended to be a permanent solution and he/she will be learning skills to help him/her manage a regular classroom better. You can also talk with your child about the supportive and fun things they will experience in the new classroom (less students, more help when needed, reinforcements, etc.).

