

January 6, 2022

To Commissioner Lisa Gore and 3/4G ANC Commissioners,

My son, DaQuan BMC. was a student at The Episcopal Center (ECC) for five (5) years. During his time at ECC, DaQuan learned strategies for coping with his behaviors.

When Daquan first came to ECC, he was in need of major support. I was getting calls from his prior school often. DaQuan would have episodes in which he became very angry! He would fight, destroy public property and flee the room and building regularly. He was a great child who did not know how to regulate his mood swings. After his entrance to ECC, I started seeing major changes in Daquan's disposition.

He was meeting friends he could relate to. He also was learning great social cues: How to control his anger and take breaks when needed. He also learned about triggers and how to notice and prevent them from escalating. He learned about consequences and how to de-escalate after an episode.

DaQuan also participated in ECC's sports programs where he learned about teamwork and being a team player.

He also had counseling from a social Worker (Brenda), who truly understood him and genuinely cared about his welfare as a whole. ECC also had counseling sessions for the parents, which I had never seen before. I was able to meet daily with his counselor to strategize ways in which to help DaQuan become more effective as a student and person.

Another thing about ECC was the dining style they had. The students came together in one dining area and ate together with their classes and support staff. They learned table manners and etiquette. They also learned to share meaningful and stimulating conversations while having lunch. They had a chef, who was amazing! He knew all the students. Chef Stephen was great with the parents as well. The meals were very well thought out and healthy.

The support staff were all gentle and patient with the students. ECC had teachers that were phenomenal! They went the extra mile and treated every student as individuals. One special teacher was Ms. Collins. The teachers were able to teach my son academically as an individual on his level, and the classroom size was small, so every student got personalized attention.

ECC also had a swimming pool. They learned to swim and release tension.

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As a whole, the staff members were excellent with students. They genuinely cared about all the students.

They even had a game room which was incredible. It was like being at an amusement park. The children were able to use it when demonstrating good behavior.

The school was managed by a director and supervisors who were trained to be compassionate and show empathy to staff and students and run the school in a very professional manner. When entering the school building everyone was greeted with warmth, professionalism and respect.

DaQuan graduated over four years ago and still talks about ECC and the wonderful moments he shared there.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity for my son to have been a part of The Episcopal Center for Children. I would recommend ECC to any parent.

Sincerely,

Molly Bryant