

First Step

The First Step program is a district wide program for our students with mild-to-moderate autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). Student placement into this program is determined by the Planning and Placement Team meeting using specific entrance criteria. Entrance criteria are based on research-based guidelines for the identification and assessment of students with ASDs and related developmental concerns. Students in the First Step program are able to participate in the mainstream classrooms with support; at the same time, they also have opportunities to work on specific skill development through the use of ABA therapy. Within the program, all students have the opportunity to learn and grow at their own pace using a wide variety of evidence-based strategies that include direct modeling, visual/auditory supports, discrete trial training, and positive behavioral intervention strategies based on the individual needs of the student. BCBA and psychological consultation as well as related services such as speech and language, occupational and physical therapy is available as determined in the student's IEP.

Activities Based Learning

Activities based learning (ABL) is a specialized program for children with Autism and Developmental Disabilities. Placement into this program is determined by the Planning and Placement Team using specific entrance criteria. Entrance criteria are based on research-based guidelines for the identification and assessment of students with ASDs and related developmental concerns. Student growth is determined by progress monitoring on individualized education plans including goals and objectives that are unique to the individual child. In collaboration with speech, occupational, and physical therapists, students are offered an alternative educational experience to meet their social, emotional, behavioral, physical and communication needs. In addition, BCBA and psychological consultation is available for those students requiring additional social-emotional and behavioral support. With an emphasis on activities based learning and functional curriculum, students achieve success and personal growth in a safe environment where they strive to gain independence and become productive contributors to society.