Neighborhood Peers Preschool Program

Now Accepting Peer Models from Neighbor Districts to Participate in our Inclusive Seahorse & Starfish Special Education Classrooms Inclusive Preschool Programs.

Contact Us:
Kristen Henry
Coordinator of Autism Programs
khenry@nmusd.us

Harper Clinic
425 E. 18th Street, Bldg. E2
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
949.515.6838
www.nmusd.us/autism

Classroom Information

Locations:
- Adams Elementary School
- Davis Elementary School
- Harbor View Elementary School
- Sonora Elementary

Times: 4 hour per day
Hours vary based on school site.

Class Size:
- **Seahorse Program** — Ten children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and up to three neighborhood peers.
- **Starfish Program** — Ten children with higher functioning ASD and up to six neighborhood peers.

Curriculum:
- ELA: World of Wonders
- Math: Building Blocks
- Science: Pearson
- Fine Motor: Handwriting Without Tears
- Social Emotional Learning: Second Step and World of Wonders
- Monthly Thematic Publications: My Big World by Scholastic.

Additional Information

**Seahorse Classrooms**
3-Half Days per week
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
$200/month

**Starfish Classrooms**
5-Half days per week
Monday through Friday
$350/month

Residence:
There is no longer a requirement to reside within the District boundaries. All families are welcome to apply.

Transportation:
Students are transported by parent or guardian. Students must be prompt.

Lunch and Snacks:
Parents provide lunch and snacks or your child may purchase at the school.

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Program Overview
Our young learners with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) learn side-by-side with their neighborhood, same-aged peers in structured, caring preschool classrooms.

The goal of the program is for all young learners to achieve kindergarten readiness in the most natural setting. The focus of each classroom is multi-dimensional across the pre-academic, social, self-help, and motor domains. Language and beginning literacy skills, including phonological awareness and alphabet knowledge is emphasized. Social and emotional independence is fostered through direct teaching and cooperative play. We strive to prepare all learners for a successful kindergarten experience.

Program Offerings
Each program has one (1) credentialed Special Education Teacher with a Master’s Degree and two (2) NMUSD-trained Behavior Interventionists.

The programs use preschool curriculum and curriculum of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Implementation of curriculum is accomplished using Applied Behavior Analysis methodologies.

Learners participate in small and large group situations. Learners rotate among centers with materials typical of preschool curriculum topics.

Play-Based Observation
All potential neighborhood children are required to participate in a play-based observation to ensure a successful experience.

Children engage in a 30-minute free-play and circle time. We observe your child, and look for exemplary learning-readiness, social, and language abilities. The observation is conducted by a multi-disciplinary group of professionals (e.g., speech & language therapist, special education teacher, psychologist).

Enrollment Process
- Children are required to be three years old and toilet-trained.
- Contact Kristen Henry at the Harper Clinic and request placement.
- Information or application will be provided.
- Complete and return the application to the Harper Clinic.
- A play-based observation is conducted.
- Parents are notified regarding child’s placement into a program.
- Family completes the registration process.

References


National Research Council (2001). Educating Children with Autism. Catherine Lord and James McGee (Eds.).