

## **Preschool**

Preschool students who are 2.9 years to 5 years old (and have not entered Kindergarten) may be referred for evaluation through Early Intervention or by a parent referral. Evaluations range from an Arena (an evaluation where all members of the Team evaluate the child simultaneously) to specific therapy areas. If a child is determined to have an area of disability best met in a preschool program, the child is placed within one of our two (2) programs. Both classrooms utilize the Massachusetts Preschool Frameworks as the basis for the curriculum and are NAEYC certified.

### **Intensive Preschool**

The program is primarily for children on the Autism Spectrum continuum and who demonstrate significant social-emotional and communication issues. These students with significant learning differences attend school either four (4) mornings or some full days each week based on the recommendation of the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team. Intensive therapies are provided individually and in small groups both in and out of the classroom. Consultation from a Board Certified Behavior Analyst helps design the goals and behavioral focus. Typically developing peers attend this program four (4) mornings to model appropriate behaviors.

The class is staff with one (1) special education teacher and two (2) paraprofessionals for a maximum of eleven (11) students, five (5) of who have disabilities. This program has a four-week summer component to prevent substantial regression based on IEP goals.

### **Moderate Preschool**

Students with moderate disabilities in cognition and communication attend one (1) of two (2) sessions, the morning session for three-year-olds and the afternoon session for four-year-olds. Each class has one more typically developing peer than special needs students. The students attend Monday through Thursday for 2.5 hours. All therapies, as needed, are provided either in or out of the moderate preschool classroom individually or in small groups.

### **Friday Schedule for Staff**

Fridays are used by the preschool staff for evaluations, Team meetings, parent trainings, home visits, or individual student meeting to model strategies for parents of special education students to carryover into the home. Advance notification of parent training topics are provided to parents in advance and babysitting is available for young siblings.