

## **PRE-SCHOOL**

Pre-school 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 pre-school program, the child is placed within one of our two programs. Both classrooms utilize the Massachusetts Pre-school Frameworks as the basis for the curriculum.

### **Intensive Pre-School**

This program is primarily for children on the Autism Spectrum continuum and who demonstrate significant social-emotional and communication issues. These students attend school for four mornings or full days each week. Intensive therapies are provided and consultation from a Board Certified Behavior Analyst from Pilgrim Area Collaborative helps design the goals and behavioral focus. Typically developing peers attend this program for four mornings to model appropriate behaviors. Therapies are provided individually and through a co-therapy model.

The class is staffed with 1 teacher and 1.5 teacher assistants for a maximum of 11 students, 5 of whom have disabilities. This program has a four-week summer component.

### **Moderate Pre-School**

Students with moderate disabilities in cognition and communication attend one of two 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. A maximum of thirteen students attend the morning program while the maximum for the afternoon session is fifteen.

Fridays are used as the evaluation day for referrals and the meeting day for Team meetings and the writing of IEPs.