

# Piedmont Unified Inclusion Preschool Program

*in partnership with Linda Beach Cooperative Preschool*



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# Early Intervention and Inclusion



## **Early Intervention:**

Research strongly supports the immediate and long-term effectiveness of **intensive, evidenced-based early intervention** to increase appropriate skills and reduce problematic behaviors in young children with special needs.

## **Inclusion:**

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services recently issued guidance to states, school districts, and early childhood providers urging them to make a place for children with special needs in **inclusive preschool** settings.

*“It is the departments’ position that all young children with disabilities should have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs, where they are provided with individualized and appropriate support in meeting high expectations.”*



- Federal Law requires school districts to provide education to children ages 3 to 5 with special needs who reside within the district's boundaries.
- PUSD currently serves 20 children with a wide-range of disabilities ages 3 to 5.
- Six of these children (due to the nature of their disabilities) receive intensive early intervention services in our Linda Beach Preschool Inclusion Program.



# Linda Beach Preschool Inclusion Program

- PUSD has partnered with a private preschool, Linda Beach Cooperative, to create an inclusive early intervention program.
  - 6 district-placed children with IEPs
  - 12-15 typically developing children
- Specifically serving children with Autism, Down syndrome, developmental disabilities, significant language impairments, and/or mental health needs.
  - Referred through parents, pediatricians, Regional Center, and private preschools.

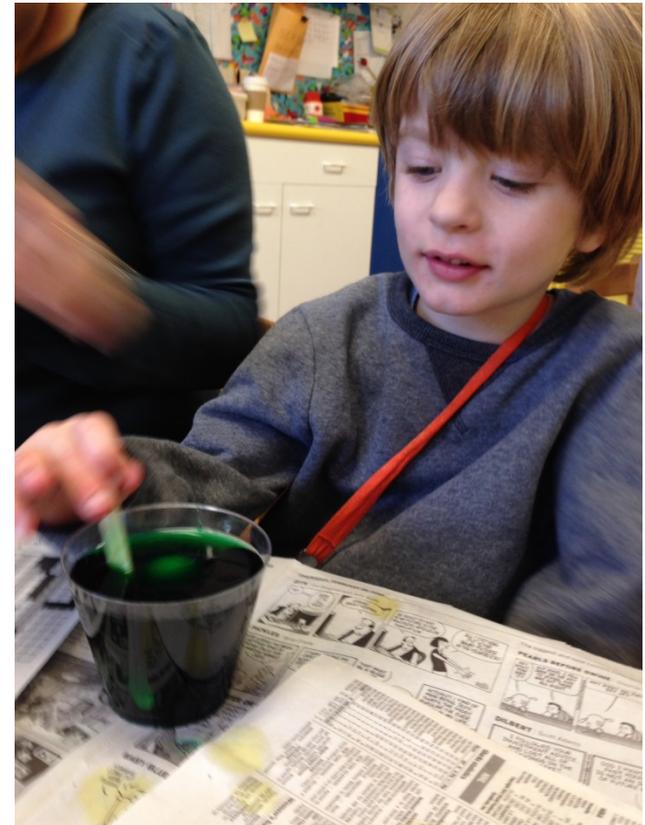


Linda Beach **Cooperative Preschool**



# What PUSD Provides at Linda Beach Preschool

- Access to typically developing peers and general education curriculum in a play-based preschool
- Individualized support and adaptations to address IEP goals
- Extended day support
- Credentialed special education teacher
- Paraeducator support
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Play therapy
- Physical therapy
- School psychologist consult
- Augmentative communication specialist consult
- Collaboration between general education and special education staff
- Home-school collaboration/parent support



# A Day in the Life ... of a PUSD Preschooler



- 8:30 a.m. Arrival/sensory warm-up activities
- 9:00 Transition to general education classroom
- 9:15 Circle time
- 9:30 Facilitated free play
- 10:00 Individual occupational therapy session
- 10:45 Snack
- 11:00 Facilitated outside play
- 11:30 Group speech therapy session
- 12:00 p.m. Small group and individual work on IEP goals
- 1:00 Pick up

# What's Our Focus?



- **Language and Communication**
  - Intensive support to develop speech and language
  - Total communication strategies: language, visual supports, and sign language
  - Use of alternative communication technologies
  - Push-in, individual, and group therapy from Speech Pathologist and Augmentative Communication Specialist



# What's Our Focus?



- **Social and Play Skills**
  - Facilitated play with typically developing peers
  - Direct teaching of social and play skills
- **Self-Care Skills**
  - Intensive toilet training
  - Feeding support
  - Adaptive behavior (dressing, self-care)



# What's Our Focus?

- **Self-Regulation**
  - Behavior support plans
  - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) methodology
  - Play therapy
  - Social stories
  - Zones of Regulation curriculum to teach calming strategies
  - Sensory regulation supports



# What's Our Focus?



- **Fine and Gross Motor Skills**
  - Push-in, small-group, and individual support from Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist
  - Handwriting without Tears curriculum
  - Adaptations to make activities accessible



# What's Our Focus?



- **Kindergarten Readiness**
  - Teaching expected student behaviors
  - Teaching pre-academic skills through play, music, and art
  - Learning to follow routines and adult directions
  - Individual transition assessment and planning for kindergarten supports
  - Collaboration with elementary sites prior to transition and during first months of kindergarten



# What's Our Focus?



- **Parent Collaboration**
  - Collaborating with parents to support the development of skills at home
  - Daily communication with families
  - Parents are invited to participate in the classroom monthly
  - Parent training workshops offered on child development topics
  - Linda Beach Cooperative Preschool offers parents of children with special needs a community of other parents



# Thank you for your support of the PUSD Inclusion Preschool Program!



"No words can describe the joy, peace of mind, and satisfaction of knowing that our son has the best of everything with the inclusion program. From the people, to the facilities, to the teaching methods, we know that everyday we drop him off at school, he is in a great place. Having the opportunities to interact with peers - both typical and those with special needs - and learn in exciting ways, has really made a big difference in his life."

--Parent of former student