

Clark Preschool 2016-17

The NJ State recommended Creative Curriculum is used as the foundation for the Clark Preschool program. It stresses 1) social/emotional development in the areas of sense of self, responsibility for self and others, and pro-social behaviors; 2) physical development of gross and fine motor 3) cognitive development of learning and problem solving, logical thinking and representation and symbolic thinking, and lastly, 4) language development including listening and speaking, reading and writing. A nutrition and hygiene/hand-washing curriculum has been introduced into the daily activities by the Nurse and our 4 year old students are supplemented with more focused paper/pencil activities to ready them for Kindergarten. Not only does the teaching staff focus on seasonal units and holidays, but also on fire prevention, nocturnal animals, sharing and giving, friendship/MLK, dental health, artic animals, five senses, Read Across America, Spring awakening with lifecycle insects, community helpers, baby animals, eco studies/pond/ocean life. A gated playground is available for use by the students.

The Clark Preschool consists of four classes of 3-5 year olds. The Multiply Disabled class services students with severe disabilities, such as, autism utilize an Applied Behavior Analysis program. The Preschool Disabled class services students identified with language, developmental and behavioral deficits significant enough to disallow them from participating in regular preschool education. Our two regular education classes are divided into 3 and 4 year old sections. These regular education classes also function as inclusion opportunities when evaluative staff deem them ready to participate. The children may begin with only 10 minutes a day and work towards full inclusion with the necessary supports. A school-wide behavior program has been put in place and positive behaviors have been increased. Classes run on a 9am-3:15pm full day schedule with a 30 minute student lunch provided. The MD class dismisses at 12 noon for training purposes. In addition, some students attend a Half day AM, 9-12 and Half Day PM 12:15-3:15pm. Before and aftercare is available.

Therapies include Speech, Occupational and Physical therapy. A School Social Worker case manages the Special Education component of the program and a Behaviorist offers training on alternative Friday afternoons to the staff of the MD class and support to the other teaching staff. A Preschool Intervention Referral Team (PIRT) meets on any student whose needs appear not to be met by regular education programming. A teacher assistant and paraprofessional support each regular education preschool class and Physical Education is offered daily for every student. Paraprofessionals are assigned via particular student needs identified in the IEP in both Special Education classes and a classroom paraprofessional assists in the PSD class. A secretary, half-day Physical Education teacher and full time School Nurse round out the program staff. This amount of staff has effectively created a student/adult ratio of approximately 6:1.

The preschoolers attend field trips; one to the musical, Seussical, and to the Public library. Arthur L. Johnson high school students from the Key Club and Crusader Athletic Leadership Council bring activities to the preschool such as puppet shows, assisting with the Halloween Parade, field day, Read Across America and celebrating Autism Awareness Day. UNICO also visits for pizza making day, Valentine's Day is celebrated with the seniors, as well as, many community helpers present to the children in the Spring. Work-study students in Education are also placed at the Preschool Program. Integrating the Preschool with the community is our goal.

The Clark Preschool provides a caring, nurturing learning foundation for our students to gain social, emotional and academic skills to succeed in Kindergarten.

Submitted by

Lori Kowalski

Supervisor of Preschool Program and School Nurse

09/21/16