



Early Education Program

The Early Education Program at The Riley Behavioral and Educational Center emphasizes language, social skills, academics, fine and gross motor development, and self-help skills through thematic instruction based on curriculum content outlined in the Alabama Course of Study. Children in this program also receive one-on-one instruction using the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for a portion of their school day. The intent of the Early Education Program is to successfully transition students into mainstreamed, regular education Kindergarten classrooms.

Daily Activities Include:

- Sensory Integration
- Fine Motor Skills
- Circle Time, including calendar skills
- Center Time
 - Floor Time—generalization of skills learned in one-on-one settings
 - Table Time—acquisition of academic skills
 - Individual Programming—one-on-one instruction for developmental skills using the principles of ABA
- Snack
- Gross Motor Skills
- Language/Literature Time

Integrated Play Groups (IPG):

- Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Early Education Program
- Based on the research of Dr. Pamela Wolfberg at San Francisco State University
- Designed to enhance children's social interaction, communication, play skills, and imagination
- Pairs children with autism and related disorders, known as novice players, with typical peers, known as expert players; these children play together under the guidance of a qualified, trained adult facilitator
- Teaches the typical peers to be accepting, responsive, and inclusive of children who relate and play in different ways

Additional Support for Teachers, Staff and Families:

- Parent Support Meetings—held monthly. These meetings provide information on issues concerning autism, pervasive developmental delay, and other related disorders.
- On-going Staff Development/Training—these sessions focus on the implementation of research-based best practices in the fields of autism and education

Our Early Education staff consists of:

- Certified special education teachers
- ABA therapists
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Licensed speech pathologist
- Licensed occupational therapist