

Frequently asked questions about the Inclusion Preschool Program



What is the Inclusion Preschool Program?

The Inclusion Preschool Program is a general education program. It is targeted for children who present with a mild delay in a developmental area (i.e. Motor, Social-emotional, Cognition, Sensory, Communication).

Where is the Inclusion Preschool Program located?

The program is located at the Margaret Clifford School (601 Auburn Road, Swedesboro, NJ).

What are the hours of the program?

The Inclusion Preschool Program meets 2.5 hours per day, five days a week (8:45 - 11:15 AM or 12:45 - 3:15 PM).

Who teaches the program?

One dually certified teacher (general/special education) and one classroom aide instruct each class. The Inclusion Preschool program also provides an inclusive opportunity for students with Individualized Education Plans. Additional teachers and classroom aides are provided, as needed, according to Individualized Education Plans. Creative Curriculum, Wilson Foundations, and components of Handwriting without Tears are utilized during daily instruction.

What is the class size? The class size can vary from 12 to 16 students.

What are the requirements to be considered for this program?

A potential candidate for the Inclusion Preschool program must:

1. Be a resident of the Swedesboro-Woolwich School district.
2. Be 3 years old by May 1 for the developmentally younger Inclusion Preschool class.
3. Be 4 years old by Oct 1 for the developmentally older Inclusion Preschool class.
4. Complete a screening which will determine if the Inclusion Preschool program is an appropriate fit. **Screenings are typically held in June.**
5. Be fully potty trained by the date of screening.
6. Commit to a 5 day/week program with transportation arrangements handled by the family.

How do I get my child screened for the Inclusion Preschool Program?

If you have mild concerns regarding your child and your child meets the requirements, the next step is to contact the Special Services department at (856) 241-1552 ext. 1010. Your family will be contacted at a later date to set up a screening for your child.

What if my child is age eligible for kindergarten but I am concerned that he/she is not ready?

The Inclusion Preschool Program is not intended to be a delay year for kindergarten. If your child is age eligible for kindergarten, parents are encouraged to have their child complete the school district's kindergarten DIAL screening and contact Mr. Rob Titus, Margaret Clifford School principal, for further guidance regarding your child's Kindergarten readiness at 241-1552 ext. 3000.

What if I am specifically concerned about my child's speech development?

Speech-language services are provided to students who have been fully evaluated, found eligible for services, and consequently have an Individualized Education Plan. The screening for the Inclusion Preschool Program is separate from a full speech-language evaluation. If you have concerns specific to your child's speech, contact Heather Worrell at Special Services for further guidance at (856) 241-1552 ext. 1010.

Do you take AM or PM requests?

Please note, there is a high volume for AM requests which makes it difficult to honor many AM requests. If your child has a unique and special circumstance that necessitates either an AM or PM request, please include this circumstance in the paperwork that is completed as part of your child's screening. Please note that a child's napping schedule is not considered a special circumstance.

What about transportation?

Transportation is provided by the parents.

Now that my child has been screened, what happens next?

Families are notified by July 31st regarding the appropriateness of the Inclusion Preschool Program. If the program has been determined appropriate for your child, parents must then schedule an appointment with Christina Panebianco at the Charles Stratton School (241-1552, ext. 1006) to complete the registration requirements.

