



“Open a window of opportunity for your child”

What is the SPEC First Friend Early Development Learning Program?

A different and unique preschool program that offers a solid research based formula which is:

INTENSITY + AN INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLAN + A GOAL DRIVEN TEAM APPROACH = MAXIMUM RESULTS

THE FOCUS OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Promote social interaction with peers in a safe environment
- Build on social-pragmatic language and develop self-regulatory strategies
- Increase attending, listening, comprehension skills, and the ability to follow directions
- Express thoughts, needs and emotions in order to communicate with others
- Encourage self confidence and involvement in group and individual tasks
- Develop creativity and enhance problem solving abilities
- Work independently on developmentally appropriate tasks and activities
- Improve pronunciation and articulation skills.
- Prepare for a school setting that is appropriate for the child

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Pre-school age children between the ages of 3-5* who:

- Demonstrate speech and/or language delay due to various communication difficulties.
- Are difficult to understand due to speech and/or oral-motor difficulties.
- Communicate to get needs met versus social contact or connection.
- Stay only briefly on topic or task due to lack of vocabulary and grammar.
- Have speech or language limited to only few sounds or phrases.
- Interact or converse only on their terms.
- Have fine motor or sensory processing delays.
- Have behavior difficulties related to their developmental delay.



WHO ARE THE FIRST FRIENDS TEAM MEMBERS AND HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

- In partnership with parents and families, the team members consist of two educators with developmental specialties as the primary Teachers, a Speech-Language Pathologist, an Occupational Therapist and behavior professionals, if needed.
- Family involvement is key to success. Regular feedback and actionable steps and techniques are provided to parents to identify teachable moments and learning opportunities in the child’s most natural environment.
- An individual evaluation of each child is conducted before commencement into the program, and customized individual treatment plan is outlined with specific target goals and timelines. The therapy goals are woven into the child’s classroom plan. Goals are measured and benchmarks are assessed weekly. As the child progresses with target goals, the goals are adapted to the next step in the building block of their development, ensuring that no block is missed.
- The program is offered year-round with morning and afternoon classes available. In order to ensure individualized attention, class size is limited to 8 children.

Our guiding principle and core belief is that every child can learn and SPEC First Friends offers a holistic, one-of-a-kind approach to ensure a child with developmental delays has success in school and life. The program is open to all regardless of race, gender, religion or national origin. We accommodate all cultures and their respective diversities and individualities.

* The SPEC First Friend’s Program is not appropriate for children with severe behavioral/emotional disorders. Should it be determined that the child is not yet ready for the program, there are intervention plans available at SPEC to address the issue and prepare the child for inclusion in the program. SPEC will look for other means to help the family.