



Overview

Elwyn Seedlings Early Care and Education Center provides Preschool Early Intervention Services for children aged 3-5 years with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Elwyn Seedlings was established in response to the growing need for early intensive behavioral intervention for children ages 3-5 years with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Philadelphia. The mission of this program is to maximize each child's potential with the intention to transition him/her to an appropriate school setting. These services are provided in partnership with the child's family and are based on principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). These principles rely heavily on data collection, including strategies such as Discrete Trial Instruction, Fluency Building, Incidental Teaching, Task Analysis, Activity Schedules, and Programmed Generalization. The curriculum is comprehensive and addresses all areas of development, including cognitive skills, functional communication, language, social skills, self-care skills, and pre-academic skills. Elwyn Seedling is dedication to rigorous staff and parent training as well as conducting and disseminating Autism research via publication, participation in professional conferences, and cooperation with other professionals in the field. Partnerships with major universities, hospitals and national organizations such as Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Center for Autism Research, Jefferson Hospital and Temple University insure that the program delivers the most up-to-date services.

Our Commitment

Elwyn Seedlings is committed to maximizing each child's unique potential. Our program is family-centered and focuses on the concerns, priorities, and resources of the family and the individual strengths and needs of the child. It takes into consideration the crucial, constant role that the family plays in a child's life. Families are treated as valuable partners and are encouraged to participate at all stages of decision making. The family and staff work together as a team to plan an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that will address the child's educational needs. Elwyn Seedlings programs and services are based on best practices of early childhood education and development, preschool early intervention, and interagency collaboration. Families and professionals work together to create a framework for successful learning throughout a child's life.

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Program Services

Services are individualized for each child based on their specific needs. The beginning stages of intervention are designed to be intensive and focused on providing the child with the skills needed to successfully participate within group settings. Children most often receive services at the center, incorporating a range of levels of intervention. Within the center, children receive intensive 1:1 teaching, small group instruction involving two to four children, or group instruction involving eight children. Most children receive a combination of individual and group instruction throughout the day. Home services and support to children in their local early care and education program can also be provided as needed, determined by a child's IEP team.

What is to be expected?

The focus of initial intervention is functional communication and basic skill building that will eventually facilitate transition to the another setting. Thus, as children acquire basic skills they may move from 1:1 intensive teaching to a small group environment.

Autism services are provided through a team approach. Each child's curriculum is comprehensive and coordinated across appropriate services. Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy are provided as needed. Therapists also consult with the child's team to insure recommendations are implemented throughout the child's daily routine and educational program.

The Parent's Role

The parent's role on the team is very important. In this unique type of service, parents perform multiple functions, such as attending team meetings, implementing behavior intervention and facilitating maintenance and generalization of acquired skills. As a vital member of the child's team, parents are essential in helping their child to successfully reach their goals.

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