

Project PRIDE

What is Project PRIDE?

Project PRIDE is a special education preschool program located at Jerome Harrison School in North Branford, CT.

The program follows the guidelines and procedures in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act which states, "A preschool child requiring special education and related services is entitled to a free and appropriate public education on and after his/her third birthday."

Project PRIDE is a play-based, language-rich program which uses a story-book curriculum as a springboard to foster growth in all areas of development including pre-academic skills, gross motor and fine motor skills, speech and language development, self-help and social skills. Active learning opportunities are created throughout the day during activities such as "circle time," facilitated play during "centers", gross and fine motor activities, snack time, and music. The children use technology including ipads, a touch-screen computer, and a Smart-Table. While the program is

designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities through the implementation of their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), the play-based model offers opportunities for growth for all students through direct instruction and incidental learning. These opportunities allow children to learn in a fun, structured, natural environment through hands-on experiences with their peers, with adult facilitation when needed. Recognizing that all children have different strengths and weaknesses and learn in different ways, the program incorporates both facilitated play and direct, explicit instruction.

The program includes children without disabilities to model appropriate social, language, and play skills within the preschool setting. To be enrolled as a role model peer, children must be toilet-trained and pass a preschool screening which assesses cognitive, speech-language, motor and social skills. Screenings for role model peers take place in January and February for the following academic year. Eligible students are selected from a lottery and participate at no cost. Transportation must be provided by the parents.



The Preschool Team:

Project PRIDE is co-taught by a special education teacher and a speech-language pathologist. The program provides occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language therapy to eligible students. Paraprofessionals and a school psychologist are integral members of our interdisciplinary preschool team. Additional consultations from outside agencies are provided as appropriate.



Programming/ Hours:

North Branford offers a continuum of services for eligible students ranging from outpatient speech-language therapy to classroom-based programs. Recommendations for programming are made by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT).

Project PRIDE meets four days a week:

Morning Session:

8:45-11:35

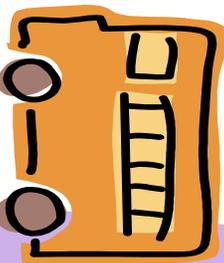
Afternoon Session:

12:30-3:10

Van transportation is available for students with disabilities. An extended school year program is provided for eligible students with disabilities as determined by the Planning and Placement Team.

Preschool Screenings:

Developmental screenings are conducted by the preschool team on a monthly basis for children suspected of having developmental delays. Information about screenings can be obtained by calling Jerome Harrison School (203) 484-1235.



Learning to play. Playing to learn

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Jerome Harrison School
335 Foxon Road
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