

# ACP Autistic Children's Program

As one of the leading regional public school programs for autism in Virginia, SECEP's Autistic Children's Program (ACP) provides students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) an educational environment that is designed to meet their individual needs. ACP addresses the core deficits of ASD through the implementation of evidence-based best practice methodologies.

Instruction is based on state standards and life skills. Classroom staff are trained in basic Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) competencies. ABA principles and procedures, as well as other methodologies, are utilized to structure and organize the educational environment to promote learning. By providing meaningful opportunities to make choices and initiate communication, we encourage active participation from each student.

Program staff are committed to maintaining a positive, safe approach to teaching and interacting with students. Behavior interventions are designed to teach desirable behaviors and reduce problematic behaviors. Board Certified Behavior Analysts work with classroom staff and students to design, implement and monitor behavior programs.



Joy is essential to emotional well-being.

Help share the joy with SECEP.

## ACP at a glance:

**Our students.** ACP serves students age two through 21 who have been found eligible for special education services for students with ASD.

**Convenient classrooms.** We currently operate more than 90 classrooms throughout the region, and the majority of students are served in public school buildings with access to regular education peers and appropriate grade-level opportunities.

**Small class size.** ACP classrooms have a typical student to staff ratio of 2 to 1. There are typically five to seven students in each classroom.

**A team approach.** Classroom teams consist of a Licensed Special Education teacher, an Education Specialist, trained Teacher Assistants and a SECEP Principal. Additional support is provided by: Speech and Language Pathologists, Board-Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), Reading Specialists, Teacher Specialists, Occupational Therapists, Licensed Social Workers and Assistive Technology professionals.

**School, home and community collaboration.** Quality of life for our students is the work of community-educators, parents and professionals coming together for one purpose. The instructional team communicates collaboratively with families and appropriate community agencies while linking them to available resources.

**Measuring progress.** The classroom team uses prescriptive assessments to develop an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) for each student. Progress is continually monitored. Instructional decisions are based on data that is reviewed every 4.5 weeks. Student achievement is reported to families every 4.5 weeks. As appropriate, students participate in state assessments (Standards of Learning Tests or Virginia Alternative Assessment Program).