

■ Educational Services

The Bancroft School

Early Education Program for Children on the Autism Spectrum

Research has shown that the earlier a child with neurological disabilities receives appropriate services, the more progress he or she can make.

Bancroft's Early Education Program has a proven record in this area. Serving youngsters ages three to nine with autism or related disorders, this highly effective program helps students maximize their abilities and potential.

In 2007, for instance, 16 out of 19 Early Education Program graduates transitioned into their home school district the following school year. In addition to enhancing the child's life, such early successes can reduce both the amount of future services required and their associated costs.

The program's goal is to help students acquire academic, behavioral, social and adaptive skills to achieve a greater level of independent functioning, and ultimately transition to a less-restrictive educational environment.

The program provides the following benefits:

- **Discrete-trial instruction** for three hours daily, combined with the social benefits of a school environment
- **Family-centered support model** including daily written communication, weekly meetings and monthly home visits
- **A high teacher-to-student ratio**
- **Highly effective instructional strategies**, such as incidental teaching, task analysis and programmed generalization that are incorporated into each child's individualized curriculum
- **On-site speech, occupational and physical therapy**
- **Training in the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)** by a communication speech specialist. PECS is a highly regarded method that enables nonverbal children to communicate and encourages language development.

To help children make the transition from Bancroft to their home district, staff members take the students to classes in their home district twice a week, enabling them to become comfortable in the new environment.

For children who need additional or continuing services, Bancroft offers a variety of elementary school-age education programs. Bancroft staff members can help students transition to the next level of academic and social skills.

The Early Education Program also offers a six-week, Monday through Friday extended school-year program.

Bancroft admits people of any race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin to all programs, activities, rights and privileges generally provided to people served by the organization.



Program Description

The Early Education Program is a full-day, year-round school based program for children ages 3-9 years with autism and related disorders. The program provides intensive learning therapies for three hours each day, as well as social and academic benefits of a school environment.

Mission Statement

Bancroft's mission is to ensure that every person is given opportunities for lifelong learning and fulfillment.

We do this by altering perceptions, and by supporting those with intellectual and developmental challenges and acquired brain injuries in achieving their life goals as valued and respected members of our world.

Program Leadership

Principal

Matthew Sharp, M. Ed.

To learn more about Bancroft's Early Education Program for Children on the Autism Spectrum please contact:

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