

### South Windsor Philosophy

South Windsor Public Schools is committed to educating preschool children with special education needs in integrated environments which are developmentally appropriate. Each child is viewed as an individual with unique abilities and educational needs. The goal of our early intervention program is to maximize a child's ability to benefit from ongoing and future educational opportunities. Like all of our special education programs, South Windsor provides a wide range of services for our preschool population, including home-school consultations, community placements, coordinated services with other agencies, or placement in the Preschool Outreach Program (POP).

#### **Special Education Eligibility**

- ◆ South Windsor resident
- ◆ Three (3) years of age or older
- ◆ Demonstrate one or more of the following areas of significant educational need as determined by a developmental assessment:
  - ~ Cognitive
  - ~ Perceptual/Motor
  - ~ Social
  - ~ Communication Skills

### Special Education Referrals

Referrals for children who may require special education services can be made by parents, family members, and community professionals who are familiar with the child. Referrals should be sent to the child's home elementary school (e.g., Eli Terry, Orchard Hill, Philip R. Smith or Pleasant Valley). The referral then will be sent to the preschool and the preschool team will conduct a screening of the child, which may include a home visit or an observation at a day care placement. If the screening results indicate possible need for service, a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting will be arranged to decide what evaluations need to be administered. Upon completion of the evaluations, another PPT will be held to determine what services are required and to develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

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South Windsor Public Schools

# Preschool Outreach Program



Located at:

Pleasant Valley School

591 Ellington Road  
South Windsor, CT 06074  
Phone: (860) 610-0291  
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**Esther Boakye-Datley**  
Principal

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## **Preschool Outreach Program**

The Preschool Outreach Program (POP) services children ages 3 through 5 who have been identified as needing special education services. The program is located in Pleasant Valley Elementary School. The structure of the program (hours, days, and staffing) remains flexible and may change annually based on the individual needs of the identified children. Role model peers from the community are included to provide age appropriate modeling of play, language, and social skills.

The program has an interdisciplinary language-based approach and incorporates the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS). Staff members include certified teachers, paraprofessionals, speech and language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, psychologist, board certified behavior analyst (BCBA), and a nurse. Parent participation and involvement are important components of the program.

## **Intensive POP (IPOP)**

IPOP is a specialized preschool experience for students requiring a systematic teaching approach. This program is based upon empirically validated, research-based approaches to teaching and behavior intervention such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication-handicapped Children (TEACCH), and Pictures Exchange Communications System (PECS). Skills are broken down, repeated often, and performance is reinforced to maximize the acquisition of skills for students who have challenges learning in the typical POP classroom.

Referrals to IPOP are made through the PPT process and the specific services a student receives are determined by the team. Skills-based assessments are conducted as a tool to monitor progress during the year. Levels of support and the time required in IPOP are monitored and adjusted as appropriate through the PPT process.

The amount of time a student is included in a typical POP classroom is also determined on an individual basis by the PPT.

Children enrolled in the IPOP program have access to speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy if deemed eligible through evaluation and the PPT process. In addition, a BCBA provides support to the program on a regular basis.

## **Community Peer Role Model Application**

Parents who are interested in their child participating in the POP program as a community peer role model can obtain an application from any South Windsor elementary school, or on the SWPS website at any time during the school year. The number of students accepted into the program is determined by the number of special education students enrolled. If more children apply than there are openings, we will employ a lottery system for selection.

The cost to participate in the POP program as a peer role model is \$2,000. This amount may be paid in three installments.

Transportation for students enrolled as peer role models is the responsibility of the parent.

## **Peer Role Model Eligibility**

To be eligible for consideration, the child must be:

- a resident of South Windsor,
- 3-5 years of age,
- toilet trained, and
- able to model appropriate skills in the areas of play, language, social, and adaptive behaviors, as determined by a screening process.

Once the application is complete, the POP teachers will invite your child to come in for a screening. Teachers will observe the child to determine if he/she demonstrates age appropriate communication and social skills. Not all children may be selected.

## **Program Hours**

The POP program operates Monday through Thursday. There are two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Sessions are assigned based on the needs of the program. Parents will be notified of the session into which their child is enrolled prior to the start of the school year.

AM SESSION	PM SESSION
9:15 – 11:55	1:10 – 3:50

The IPOP program operates on a schedule created to meet the individualized needs of its students. Parents will be provided details upon enrollment.

*Both the POP and IPOP programs follow the operating schedule of South Windsor Public Schools. If schools are closed due to inclement weather, the POP program will also be closed.*

## **Questions?**

Additional information regarding POP, IPOP and other special services programs is available on our website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Special Services office at (860) 291-1240.

