

Enhanced ABA Group with a 1:1 Aide

MISSION

The mission of Little Angels Center's Early Intervention Enhanced Development ABA Group is to provide a therapeutic, language enriched environment, where children engage in learning through structured play, while applying developmentally appropriate instructional techniques. The groups will incorporate a Sensory-Motor and an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) model to facilitate improved function and independence within the group, home and community.

The group utilizes an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) approach, using age-appropriate play media and movement to improve success. The special instructor is an ABA instructor with extensive knowledge in early childhood development, behavior, and ways of adapting the child's environment to encourage independence. The special instructor is well versed in the policies and procedures identified by the NYS Department of Health's Early Intervention Program.

The group will utilize activities that will provide the family and caregivers the opportunity to apply acquired skills within the home and community. The group will provide the child with a variety of sensory experiences to assist them in regulating their bodies, so they can improve their ability to sustain attention to goal directed activities.

Little Angels Center's early intervention group will provide an interdisciplinary approach, with the goal of maximizing the child's success. Whenever applicable, it will incorporate the child's related service goals into the daily group routine. It will provide for continual opportunities to probe cognition, language and motor, throughout the course of the structured group.

Little Angels Center is equipped with a sensory motor gym. The children will have access to a variety of communication resources, to ensure that each child is able to effectively express their wants and needs. The center is furnished with a variety of toys designed to foster age-appropriate cognitive, social-emotional, motor and language development.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- It combines group teaching and individualized instruction.
- It allows for large and small group instruction.
- It provides opportunities for direct ABA data collection via individual programs/trials and through structured activities throughout the program.
- It provides opportunities for sensory exploration and organization.
- It provides an environment for encouraging motor development.
- It provides opportunities for social interactions with their peers
- It offers peer models
- It allows children to explore a variety of communication models.

GROUP MODEL

CLASS

Enhanced ABA Group Development with a 1:1 Aide

LOCATION

The group will be a facility-based program.

DURATION

2 hours

GROUP RATIOS

6:1:6 (6 Children: 1 Teacher: 6 Aides)

The class is comprised of six children, diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Each child will have an individual aide that will accompany them throughout the program. An ABA instructor will provide direct instruction to all students and provide family training to encourage an embedded coaching approach for carryover within the home and community. The BCBA will provide direct support to the ABA instructor, staff, and families as needed. They will facilitate and assist in the development and implementation of assessment tools and assist in developing behavior strategies, to teach appropriate behavior and reduce maladapted behaviors.

FAMILY TRAINING

Each student will be provided family training one time per month, for 30 minutes, with the special instructor, to provide demonstration and to collaborate strategies that can be embedded within the home. They will also receive family training one time per month, for 60 minutes, to observe the child within their natural environment. This will allow the special instructor the opportunity to coach the family during their daily routines.

GROUP SCHEDULE

- Transition to classroom: Remove coats/backpacks and free play with 1:1
- Center based play (goal directed): Guided play with the child's aide, while waiting for students to arrive.
- Learning to clean up: Children will clean up their activities and transition to circle time.
- Circle time: Learning to sit in circle time with a "Hello" song.
- Group sensory activity related to the theme of the day, incorporating the five senses as well as the proprioceptive and vestibular systems. The group will often incorporate food exploration as a sensory media.
- Individualized learning: Individual program/trials based on the child's individual goals.
- A structured movement activity (gym time).
- Story/song/goodbye circle
- Dismissal: Retrieve personal belongings and transition back to parent/guardian.

The schedule is adaptable, as all children learn differently and may require different supports to ensure success within the group.

PROGRAM GOALS

COMMUNICATION

The group is a language enriched environment that provides verbal and non-verbal communication options to include: offering choices between objects, gesturing, sign language, picture identifications, switch activation and augmentative communication devices as needed.

COGNITION

The group will provide the opportunities to explore age-appropriate toys. The children will develop the ability to improve their attention to task and to understand classroom routines.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL

It will provide small and large groups settings for children to interact with their peers. It offers opportunities for improving eye contact, asking questions, turn taking, sharing, personal space and etc., while providing peer models.

FINE MOTOR

Little Angels Center is equipped with fine motor media and manipulative. It will provide the child with the ability to carryover related service goals whenever applicable. It will implement sensory strategies as outlined by the child's occupational therapist.

GROSS MOTOR

The group provides opportunities for organized movement activities within our sensory motor gym. It will embed the child's gross motor goals, as instructed by the child's physical therapist, whenever applicable.

MONITORING PROGRESS

The team will compile data to ensure progress toward the goals written on the child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Data will be taken with individual program/trial-based activities, in a one-to-one setting. Data collection will also be embedded into the child's group routine, to assess the child's ability to generalize the skill throughout the day.

The group will hold team meetings monthly to ensure continuity of services, to share strategies and to re-evaluate the success of the child's current program. The team will be in contact with the family and caregivers to ensure that the needs of the family are being met within the program. The special instructor will compile 6-month reports to address progress and to identify the effectiveness of the program.

BEHAVIORAL POLICY

Little Angels Center encourages and reinforces positive behavior utilizing a reward system to identify constructive behavior. The team will change undesired behaviors by redirecting the child's focus. The team will offer the child with appropriate sensory opportunities and a safe, quiet space within the group as needed. The team will incorporate a formalized behavior plan when the need is identified.