



Serendipity's Mission is to provide the best environment for our students to heal and become educated, productive community members.

Communications Classroom Fact Sheet

Program Description:

Serendipity's Communications Classroom provides a consistent multi-disciplinary approach to best support the unique needs of students who have significant communication and sensory needs. The classroom is part of Serendipity's Therapeutic School Program because its model is an integration of special education and mental health treatment. Our students' progress is monitored weekly as well as monthly through a detailed tracking system. They are evaluated yearly and their progress is used in shaping their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Structure/Curriculum:

The Communications Classroom is richly staffed with a full-time licensed teacher, a program assistant, and a staff to student ratio of 1:1 as we have skills trainers assigned to each student. Every student is also assigned a masters-level clinical case manager to conduct mental health assessments, monitor treatment



goals, coordinate service providers, and respond to crises as needed. Medication is administered by a Certified Medication Assistant. Serendipity's

Instructional Coordinators assist with IEP development and assessment. Two full-time Speech Language Pathologists are highly involved in the execution of curriculum design and classroom strategies. Curriculum in the Communications Classroom is geared to language acquisition, social skills, individual academic progress and self-regulation. The curriculum includes:

- Individualized instruction using the STAR program, a highly researched and successful curriculum widely used with students on the Autism Spectrum.



Components of the STAR program include Pivotal Response Training (PRT), Discrete Trial Training (DTT), and the teaching of Functional Routines (FR).

- Play and Social Interaction Concepts curriculum
- Visual Schedules
- Edmark
- System 44
- Equals Math
- IXL Math
- Students have access to a variety of sensory items and strategies including: sensory balls (in various shapes, weights, and textures); tactile objects; breathing techniques; deep pressure stimulation and compression; weighted vests and blankets; mini-trampoline; stretch bands; body socks; scooters; swing; tunnel; bubbles; and "sit and bounce" balls.
- Access to consultation with Autism Specialists from Columbia Regional

For more information, please contact:

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Communications Classroom students benefit from a 1:1 student-to-staff ratio as well as individualized instruction.

Serendipity's Core Beliefs, drawn from the Principles of RE-Education:

- Trust is essential.
- Feelings should be nurtured.
- Groups are major sources of instruction.
- Community must be experienced to be learned.
- Intelligence can be enhanced.
- Competence makes a difference, especially with schoolwork.
- Self-control can be taught.
- Physical experiences help us define ourselves.
- Now is when life is to be lived.
- Time is an ally in support of positive changes
- Ceremony and ritual give order, stability, and confidence.
- Joy should be built into each day.