



## **Arlington Heights School District 25 Early Childhood Program**

### **Program Overview**

The Early Childhood Program in Arlington Heights School District 25 (AHSD 25) serves children who exhibit a variety of special needs. Our goal is to help each child realize his or her potential by providing a wide variety of learning experiences and related services support.

The Early Childhood Program is for children who are three and four years of age. The program consists of a morning or afternoon session, 2 ½ hours in length. Each classroom has an Early Childhood teacher and teaching assistant.

In addition, the Early Childhood Program offers the opportunity for children without special education needs to be included in a district preschool program. These classrooms known as 'Children's Circle', include children with and without disabilities, as well as children who are at-risk for academic success.

### **Screening**

Parents who believe their preschool child may require support in the following areas: Vision, hearing, gross or fine motor, behavior, learning, cognitive or multiple needs may call and request a screening through the Early Childhood Program at (847)398-4211. Screenings occur throughout the school year and are scheduled on a first come first serve basis.

Children who have participated in an Early Intervention Program will also be asked to participate in the AHSD 25 screening process.

### **CLASSROOMS**

#### ***Diagnostic Classroom***

For those children who require additional assessment after the screening process, the diagnostic classroom may be utilized. This is an opportunity to complete a comprehensive assessment in a preschool environment to determine any areas in which a child may require special education support.

#### ***Children's Circle***

These classrooms include children who are typically developing, at-risk, or children with special needs. With small class sizes (15 children maximum), and specialists who integrate into this inclusive classroom environment, all children benefit.

#### ***Self-Contained Preschool Classroom***

These classrooms are designed for children with moderate to severe special education needs. The maximum number of children per classroom is ten, allowing for small and individual instruction with the support of teaching assistants and related services personnel.

#### ***Stepping Stones***

This classroom provides highly structured, individualized teaching with the use of visual support for children who exhibit severe communication disorders. Many of these children display characteristics of autism.

#### ***Phonological Classroom***

This two day a week, half day program is offered to children who exhibit severe to profound phonological deficits. All other developmental areas are within the normal expected chronological age.

### **Related and Support Services**

- Speech and language services
- Psychological services
- School social work services
- Physical and occupational therapy