



# The Children's Institute

Amazing Kids. Amazing Place.

## Educational Services

### The Day School at The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh

The Day School at The Children's Institute is an Approved Private School and is licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Board of Private Academic Schools and Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. We are one of only 25 schools nationally recognized by the National Commission for Accreditation of Special Education Services. The Day School at The Children's Institute serves nearly 200 students between the ages of 5-21 years old from more than 65 school districts.



### Instructional Philosophy

The Day School is actively dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our students and their families within a safe and supportive school environment. We share the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency for our students. Our instructional philosophy emphasizes a student's progression towards independence across a variety of environments from the classroom to the community. This focus is supported by best practices in special education including:

- Transdisciplinary team approach
- Academic and functional assessments
- Data-driven decision making
- Current technology
- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Community partnerships
- Family involvement

### Academic Programming & Curriculum

The Day School has 29 classrooms, including 12 Autism Support, 11 Multiple Disabilities Support, and six Adult Preparatory (for students 18-21 years old). Functional academics and life skills are integrated throughout the school day in various activities. Our curriculum promotes and supports individualized goals that are aligned with Pennsylvania Academic Standards and Alternate Eligible Content as defined in the PA Core Standards.



To learn more about The Day School, please contact Ashley Harland at 412.420.2222 or [ahz@the-institute.org](mailto:ahz@the-institute.org)

## Autism Support

The Autism Support (AS) Program at The Day School is guided by the technical assistance and training provided through the PA Autism Initiative. The program offers instruction based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, which includes a behavioral approach to language and social skills, an environmental analysis of motivation, an operant analysis of instruction in behavior management, and a pragmatic approach to data collection and data-based decision making. Verbal Behavior interventions are used to motivate students to learn language by connecting words with their purposes. With systematic planning, effective instructional practices and a functional approach to behavior management, students are better able to participate in meaningful ways in the academic curriculum.

## Multiple Disabilities Support

Our Multiple Disabilities Support (MDS) program serves students who experience two or more disabling conditions that affect learning and other important life functions. Programming in our MDS classrooms consists of small class size, a highly-structured classroom, opportunities to practice skills in community settings, and a focus on PA Core Academics. Our educators and therapists work collaboratively to utilize best practices in special education and instructional techniques based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. Our educational instruction focuses on consistent positive reinforcement for skill acquisition and generalization of skills into the community.

## Secondary Transition & Adult Preparatory Support

The overall goal of Secondary Transition is for students to achieve their greatest level of self-sufficiency in school, at home, and in the community. The development of the Transition Plan drives the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and starts at age 14 for students in our high school classrooms. Around the age of 18, adult preparation planning begins and many students from our Autism and Multiple Disabilities support classrooms come together to form our Adult Prep classrooms. Instruction allows for opportunities to practice skills, develop competencies, and generalize skills in the community. Functional life skills, adapted behavior skills, and social skills are an integral part of the curriculum at the secondary level. Our Adult Prep students graduate from The Day School prepared for transition to post-secondary programming.

## Supportive Services

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Vision support services
- Hearing support services
- School nursing and dietary services
- School social work and Psychology services
- Applied Behavior Analysis services
- Assistive technology options
- Transition services

