

#### Comments from Parents ...

- The kids do so much every week and we are very excited that our son gets to experience so many different scenarios while learning to handle himself in different situations. He feels very comfortable at school and feels he has lots of friends. You all do such an outstanding job.
- I fully wish to thank all of the staff at DLC for their help and understanding and support that they have given myself, my son and the rest of my family. I am truly thankful.
- I truly wished I knew about this program 12 years ago. Keep up the good services.

For More Information About the Program Contact ...

Maria Morabito (203) 365-8867 Program Administrator or Dr. Michael Regan (203) 365-8837 Director of Special Education www.ces.k12.ct.us Cooperative Educational Services 25 Oakview Drive Trumbull, CT 06611





# Developmental Learning Center

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Developmental Learning Center (DLC) is a regional special edu-



cation program for children from 11-21 years of age who fall within the Autism Spectrum Disorder continuum or who

exhibit severe language impairment. DLC is a highly structured program for children with severe developmental disabilities who require an alternate special education placement .

The Developmental Learning Center offers intensive positive behavioral support via use of structured environments and a low student to staff ratio, functional communication training, and functional academics. The program also offers many opportunities for community based instructional vocational training and social/recreational experiences.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Staff to student ratio varies by groupings from 1:1 to 3:7
- Classroom Size: 3 to 7 students
- Highly structured, Predictable and Supportive Teaching Environment
- High use of visual aides and static visual cueing
- Functional Curriculum
- Individualized Programming
- Emphasis on language & communication development
- Focus on developing pragmatics (use of language)
- Transition Services
- Utilization of Augmentative Communication Systems as needed
- Pre-Vocational and Community Based Supported Training Opportunities
- Comprehensive Behavior Management System
- Frequent parent contact
- Social/Recreational Community Integration
- Range of Related Services:

-Speech-Language

-Sensory Integration Based O.T. -Physical Therapy -Nursing -Psychiatric Consultation -Individual and group counseling

It is the policy of Cooperative Educational Services that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against under any program on account of their race, color, religious creed, age, marital or civil union status, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, residence, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation, learning disability or physical disability including, but not limited to, blindness or pregnancy.

## PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The program is designed to facilitate the transition from school to adult life. Utilizing a functional curriculum the activities in this program focus on assisting students to become as independent as possible in domestic, community and vocational settings.

The development of personal management skills such as hygiene, grooming, and domestic living skills are fundamental to success in these environments and are an integral part of the DLC program. In addition the development of appropriate social skills, behaviors and communication skills are a major focus throughout all activities.

#### TRANSITION SERVICES

Students and their families work closely with teachers and the C.E.S. vocational transition specialist to design and implement individual transition plans. Transition planning begins when a student turns 14 and charts the path toward successful integration into adulthood.

## PROGRAM STAFF

The program staff includes a group of highly skilled special education teachers, teaching assistants, a clinical team consisting of a social worker, consulting psychiatrist, speech pathologist, occupational and physical therapy as well as secretarial and administrative staff.