

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Fairfield County Educational Service Center preschool program for children with disabilities was established in 1990 to provide special education services to children, ages 3-5, who have documented disabilities in one or more areas of development. The program is a collaborative service among the seven local school districts in Fairfield County and is administered by the Fairfield County Educational Service Center. All services are provided free to children who qualify.

The program is operated according to the Ohio Department of Education standards, federal mandates for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, and state licensure rules and regulations. Preschool teachers must hold a license for the Early Education of the Handicapped issued by the Ohio Department of Education.

The program offers a continuum of options for children with disabilities, including services in the home or at other preschool sites to classrooms scheduled part-time to full-time each week during the school year. Classrooms have a ratio of one teacher and one assistant to eight children with disabilities. Related services of speech pathology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology, orientation-mobility, and special transportation may be provided to the children.

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) specifying skills for the focus of instruction for the year is developed and implemented for each child with a disability who enrolls in the program.

The philosophy of the program emphasizes developmentally-appropriate activities. The preschool has adopted the *Creative Curriculum*. Within this context, children with disabilities receive play-based, individualized, developmentally-appropriate interventions, including child- and teacher-directed activities. Typically-developing children are considered to be an integral component of the program as role models for instructional and social interactions.



LEARNING STEPS PRESCHOOL

A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Operated by the
**FAIRFIELD COUNTY
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**

955 Liberty Drive
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
740.653.3193

Larry Miller, Ph.D., Superintendent
Sandra Muir, Director
Cindy Clark-Wagonseller, Supervisor
Carolyn Dresbach, Psychologist
Steve Hopkins, Psychologist

*ALL PROGRAM SERVICES ARE OPERATED ACCORDING
TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RULES
FOR THE EDUCATION OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN
WITH DISABILITIES AND STATE LICENSURE RULES*