WATSON INSTITUTE LEAP PRESCHOOL

NATURALISTIC, INCLUSIVE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The Watson Institute LEAP Preschool (Learning Experiences: an Alternative Program for preschoolers and Parents) offers a unique environment for preschool-aged children diagnosed with autism to learn alongside their neurotypical peers.

Originating in Pittsburgh, the LEAP model is a **nationally replicated, evidence-based program** that has produced significant developmental outcomes for children ages 3 to 5. LEAP continues to serve as a model for early childhood education programs across the country.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Individualized Programming:

- Creative Curriculum
- LEAP Quality Program Indicators
- ABA principles utilized in classrooms
- Aligned with PA Early Learning Standards

Related Services Provided in Classrooms:

- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Speech & Language Pathologist (certified in Natural Language Acquisition & Gestalt Language Processing)

Inclusive, Outcome-Driven Program

- LEAP reinforces the premise that children with autism learn better in an inclusive setting alongside their neurotypical peers
- Classrooms comprised of 8 peers and 4 students with autism
- Conveniently located in Sharpsburg, PA

Family Services Coordinator:

- Provides a bridge between home and school
- Offers resources and information to families and conducts trainings
- Active member of IEP team

WHAT MAKES A LEAP STUDENT SUCCESSFUL?

- Students ages 3, 4, and 5 learn essential Pre-K skills in mixed-age group classrooms
- Students who show awareness of their peers
- Children who can participate safely in a classroom environment
- Children who attempt comunication with others

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