

# Kindergarten Readiness

## **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30pm-3:30 pm (limit eight children)**

The Kindergarten Readiness Program is a small therapeutic group for children ages 4-1/2 to 6 years of age who are struggling with the prerequisite skills needed to succeed academically and socially in a formalized educational setting such as Kindergarten. The group is led by a licensed speech-language pathologist and an educational specialist. Emphasis of the program is to prepare children to effectively participate within group activities and routines that they will encounter within a regular classroom/school environment. Group leaders will use various activities to develop the following skills: self-regulatory skills, metacognitive skills, language and communication skills (i.e. social language and pragmatic skills), social skills (i.e. interactions with peers), fine motor, visual-motor and sequencing skills, plus emerging literacy skills (i.e. reading and math readiness skills). In addition each child will be provided guided opportunities to practice classroom skills such as turn-taking, listening skills, recognizing the need for assistance, asking for help, and initiating and completing academic tasks. Teaching methods used are based on what clinical research has shown is best practice for the development of these skills with in this age group.

An Educational Specialist will lead a bi-weekly parent meeting as an essential component of this group. The hour long parent group spends half of the time observing the children participating in an activity and the other half discussing issues relevant to the parents. During the observation, the educational specialist will point out and elaborate on important teaching strategies that the staff are using so that the parents can work on generalizing these tools with their children at home. Discussion with parents continues after the observation, where issues regarding their children's current and future education can be shared. The educational specialist will also introduce topics such as How to Write Social Stories, and will bring relevant information and resources to the group. Parents are encouraged to use their understanding, experience and knowledge to help problem solve issues of concern. Parents will often share information about successful programs and techniques that they are using.

The fee for this program has been structured at a reduced hourly rate, to ensure maximum cost effectiveness. To this end, this program is billed through educational services and is not reimbursable through most insurance policies. Parents are encouraged to sign up for scholarship funds to defray the cost of the group.

### **Group Goals:**

- Following a daily kindergarten routine (i.e. circle time/sharing, group activities, recess, snack, etc.)
- Sustainability of attention across tasks
- Managing the transitions of kindergarten routines (i.e. washing hands before having snack, putting your spot away before sitting at the table)
- Following functional classroom directions that are multi-step
- Following through on classroom responsibilities (i.e. being responsible for your scissors, glue, markers and making sure you put your finished product in your cubby)
- Being a good friend and acting accordingly

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- Being flexible
- Being patient and not interrupting when a peer is sharing
- Keeping your hands to yourself
- Being a good sport
- Being respectful
- Entering and exiting a group activity
- Development and awareness of basic concepts
- Early phonemic awareness
- Development of fine motor control
- Functional academics
- Metacognitive skills
- Receptive/Expressive Language Skills
- Pragmatic/ Reciprocal/Social Language
- Vocabulary Development
- Early narrative /sequencing concepts

The Kindergarten Readiness group runs all year. Most of the children participate in group between 6 and 9 months, as the group leaders have found that it takes this length of time to learn and generalize the skill set needed to be successful within a regular educational setting.

Children range in age from 4 ½ to 6 years of age. Usually the children are concurrently enrolled in either a morning preschool or Kindergarten program.

**The Kindergarten Readiness Group is held on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Parents are required to be in the lobby no later than 3:10 as the children are brought out to their parents at 3:15, and the clinicians spend a few minutes with each parent.**

- Clinician – Student ratio: 2: 6
- Maximum number of children: 8
- Group Leaders: Carol Moran & Lilach Levinkron

**Parent Group: Facilitated by Corinne Callan, currently meets every other Tuesday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

- Group observation
- Facilitated parent discussion

Fee for Group Services:

- KR group: 6 hours a week
- Parent group: 1 hour every other week
- Intake
- Parent Conference at the end of each session
- The fee for this program has been structured at a reduced hourly rate, to ensure maximum cost effectiveness. To this end, this program is billed through educational services and is not reimbursable through most insurance policies. Parents are encouraged to sign up for scholarship funds to defray the cost of the group.

For any additional information or further questions, please e-mail one of us at [cmoran@chconline.org](mailto:cmoran@chconline.org) or [llevinkron@chconline.org](mailto:llevinkron@chconline.org)