

# Carmel Early Childhood Peer Program



## About Our Program

Carmel Clay Schools provides early childhood special education services to children with disabilities aged 3-5 years old, as determined by each child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Our early childhood classrooms typically contain no more than 10 students with special needs, are directed by a licensed special education teacher and are supported by two instructional assistants. Specially trained therapists join each class throughout the week to deliver specialized services to students. Each child in this classroom is working on a specific set of goals, selected following an educational evaluation. Some examples of these goals would be interacting with others, using words to communicate, using hands/eyes together for fine motor tasks and following directions.

## Peer Characteristics

Typically developing peers can participate in these special education classrooms as peer models. Peers are fully integrated members of the class, participating in circle time, center time, free play, and many opportunities to socialize and interact with others. Our curriculum components: Literacy Express and Handwriting Without Tears, provide students with a well-rounded preschool experience. We are looking for children that are good language, social and behavioral models who are comfortable in the school environment. Applicants must reside within Carmel Clay Schools boundaries and must fall within the same age ranges as students in the class.

## Application and Screening

If you would like your child to be considered for a position in our Peer Program, please complete and submit the application prior to Monday March 15th, 2021. Following receipt of applications, families will be contacted to participate in a screening process which will occur on Wednesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Selected students will be offered the opportunity to participate in play dates within a potential early childhood classroom during the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Students accepted into the peer friend program will receive notice of their acceptance by Wednesday, May 26th. While we truly appreciate your willingness and interest in our program, we may only be able to accommodate a portion of applicants.

## Program Locations

- Cherry Tree Elementary
- Clay Center Elementary (opening Fall 2021)
- Forest Dale Elementary
- Smoky Row Elementary

## Class Times

AM 7:50-10:25

PM 11:50-2:35

## Contact

 Lizz Fields  
Early Childhood  
Coordinator

 (317) 571-4616

 [lfields@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:lfields@ccs.k12.in.us)