



## NMUSD Neighborhood Peers Program

### Eligibility for Peers and Program Overview

- Students must be at least 3- years of age prior to enrolling. Children are not eligible for consideration if they will be age 5 years before or on December 2nd of a given year.
- Children enrolling in Starfish classrooms should have prior experience attending a preschool or equivalent large group program multiple days per week.
- Students must live within the attendance areas of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District and provide proof of residency.
- Required forms and immunization records must be completed before a child can be admitted into the program as required by the California Code of Regulations and District Policy.
- Students enrolling in programs must be fully toilet trained.
- Transportation is not provided. Parent/Guardian is responsible to transport child to and from preschool program campus. The child must be prompt. Students are expected to attend 3 or 5 days per week for 4 hours daily.
- Parent/Guardian is responsible to send a lunch/snack to school with the child OR purchase a lunch at the school; purchase price may vary each year.
- Parent/Guardian may be asked to volunteer to bring snacks or materials to the classroom, as needed.
- Parent/Guardian will be invited to participate in one Parent-Teacher meeting.
- Students and Parents must agree to follow the Newport-Mesa Unified School District’s preschool policies in the *Preschool Parent Handbook if one is available*.
- Parents understand there is a monthly tuition fee; details are included in a separate agreement. Failure to pay will lead to dismissal from the program.
- Due to the specialized instruction of this program and the changing needs of preschool children, a teacher or parent may request a child be re-evaluated for appropriateness of placement. If at that time, it is determined the Seahorse/Starfish classroom is no longer an appropriate placement, parents and school staff will meet to *discuss dismissal* from the program. Meetings and discussions with the teacher, parent, and other school staff will occur before a dismissal would take place.
- Students must exhibit age-appropriate behavior, play and language skills required as models for children with autism.
- In order to accommodate learning at the highest level, each participant is required to participate in a play-based observation as part of the formal application process. The District reserves the right to screen, and select children for this program.

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS LISTED ABOVE.**

Parent/Guardian printed name

Parent/Guardian signature

Child’s printed name

Date of Birth

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*ACCEPTED Staff*

*Date*

*Placement*