

Walk with Me Program Description

Lincoln Elementary School 1120 Lark Street Alexandria, MN 56308

Target Population: The target population includes students, grades K-5, who meet special education criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Developmental/Cognitive Delays. These students demonstrate significant barriers to learning in a larger general education classroom setting.

Program Overview: The Walk with Me program provides students with a highly structured, visually supported, predictable environment for learning. Staff communicate with students using simplified language and, when appropriate, visual representation. There are clear and consistent expectations and repetition is used to teach routines and skills. The STAR program provides a structured curriculum for scope and sequence of this skill acquisition. Academics are taught using a functional curriculum.

Mission/Goals: Walk with Me students will learn social skills, emotional regulation, sensory strategies, communication skills/strategies, and functional academics to meet their maximum potential.

Student Profile: The Walk with Me program provides individualized special education services that exceed current special education programming provided within a typical elementary school setting. A Walk with Me student has significant needs in the areas of social, emotional, sensory, communication and behavioral development. Many student profiles include deficits that make them vulnerable in a larger population. The students in this program need intensified staff support with reduced staff ratios and environmental space that accommodates individual behavior and sensory needs.

Program Components

Social/Behavior

- Students are instructed in developing appropriate social skills in school and the community.
- Students are instructed in coping strategies to manage self-control and increase self-esteem.
- Speech Language Pathologist works closely with staff and students to establish verbal and augmentative communication systems allowing all students to access and participate in educational programming and further develop appropriate communication behaviors.

Community Skills

- Students are given opportunities to practice and experience a variety of community experiences

Physical/Fitness and Motor

- Developmental Adaptive Physical Education (DAPE)
- Movement opportunities to support learning are provided throughout the student's day.

Academic Skills

- Emphasis on individualized goals and objectives as it relates to academic areas
- Apply academic skills in real life situations
- Most students are assessed using the state alternate assessment tests

Family/Interagency Collaboration

- Collaboration with community agencies to provide services to students and families
- School, home and community operate as a trans-disciplinary team to best meet the student's needs.

Other:

- Upon entrance to the Walk with Me program, each student will receive all educational services within the setting classroom. As students gain skills, they may begin to transition to less restrictive special education programming and/or the general education classroom. Each student's transition is determined on an individual basis by the student's IEP team.
- For some students, the Walk with Me program will remain the most appropriate educational setting through 5th grade.
- Transitions for students back to their schools of attendance are slow, mindful and well planned out. Alexandria Public Schools staff work together to create the transition supports that can make this successful.

Available Staffing per student IEP Includes:

- Licensed/Highly Qualified Instructors
- Paraprofessionals
- Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP)
- Occupational Therapy Services (OT)
- Developmentally Appropriate Physical Education (DAPE)

