



### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM (Ages 3 to 6)**

Our early childhood education program is designed to pick up where Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) Programs at other agencies leave off. Our program serves students between the ages of 3 and 6 and is designed to teach foundational skills such as:

- Attending
- Following directions
- Academic skills
- Communication skills
- Social skills
- Daily living skills
- Leisure skills

It is also designed to decrease challenging behaviors that interfere with learning, such as stereotypy, self-injury, aggression, and property destruction. We do this by teaching students appropriate ways of communicating their wants and needs. Collectively, these skills are the foundation on which our elementary program builds.

One advantage of early intervention is that children who are younger have a shorter history of challenging behavior to overcome. Thus, it is easier to break a chain of one or two years of challenging behavior as opposed to eight or ten years of challenging behavior. Another advantage of starting young is that children get bigger and are often more difficult to prompt and physically manage as they age. Although it may be hard to envision your child 10 or 15 years from now, it is a reality that will come quickly. Targeting objectives for skill acquisition and the reduction of behavioral challenges as soon as possible yields the biggest outcome difference in the treatment of autism.

The early education program is designed to be individualized for every student. In the classrooms with our youngest learners, some workspaces are designed to limit distractions, while others are designed to increase social play and interactions. Each student has individualized programs and materials to help increase their skill set. Daily and weekly schedules, visual prompts and reminders, along with workstations, reading areas, and technology centers are in every room. Students also spend time outside their classroom working on self-help skills in the cafeteria, play and social skills on the playground, science lessons in the garden, and sports skills in the Fitness Room and the Gym.

Crossroads School is a program of

