

InSHAPE, Infant School and Home Autism Program through Education

InSHAPE is an individualized program for young children on the autism spectrum, from birth to age three.

InSHAPE provides an in-depth assessment of a young child's development and learning abilities. This assessment is the basis for developing an in-home instructional support plan geared toward basic communication, social engagement, emotional regulation, and sensory/motor skill development. The emphasis is on 1) supporting the family through information about autism spectrum disorders and modeling effective communication, interaction, and play strategies, and 2) preparing the child to enter a preschool learning environment.

SHAPE, School and Home Autism Program through Education

These specially designed supports help children with autism develop self-regulation, communication, and socialization skills.

SHAPE is an intensive program for young children diagnosed on the autism spectrum. It helps students and families adjust to autism by providing research-based "best practice" programming and a positive, supportive, realistic outlook. Instruction and related support services are designed to increase students' social and communication skills, replace challenging behaviors with more adaptive ones, and prepare students for

successful school experiences. Eligible children may receive supported instruction in community-based preschool environments and at home.

SHIPS, School and Home Intervention for Preschool Students

SHIPS helps children and their families process emotional difficulties through play therapy and counseling.

SHIPS is a counseling and mental health referral resource that supports children and families that are in crisis or at risk. The goal of the program is to address the emotional needs of preschoolers who display difficult, hard-to-handle behaviors at home or in school. Services include weekly individual play therapy sessions for the student, weekly counseling sessions for the parents, parent education, and referral resources. Consultation and collaborative supports are provided to preschool teachers and community agencies working with the children served by SHIPS.



Referral and enrollment

Referrals to SCOE Preschool programs are initiated by local school districts. Parents seeking access to these services should contact the speech therapist or special education coordinator at their neighborhood elementary school. The North Bay Regional Center, Easter Seals Infant Program, and Early Learning Institute can also facilitate student referrals.

For more information about the SCOE Preschool programs, contact the Sonoma County Office of Education Preschool Office, (707) 524-2712.

*Welcome to preschool,
Where learning is play,
And play is learning.*



SCOE Preschool Office
8511 Liman Way
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
(707) 522-3272 ■ www.scoe.org

SCOE Preschool

Early intervention programs



*Providing positive, caring,
and enriched learning
environments for young children
with special needs*



SCOE Preschool

Early intervention programs

Overview

The Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) offers a variety of learning experiences for preschoolers who have special education needs. Children who are 3 to 5 years old can receive instruction geared to meet their individual needs. Special day classes, programs that build mobility skills, specialized services for young children on the autism spectrum, counseling and mental health services, and remedial speech and language instruction are among the many services available.

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are developed for each student by a team that includes the child's parents or caregivers and the SCOE teachers, specialists, and administrators who will be working with the child.



Special day classes

This is an environment where children can develop through active exploration, socialization, and communication and by "learning how to learn."

In special day classes, emphasis is placed on engaging children in play-based interventions that enhance sensory, social, pre-academic, motor, and communication development. Students attend classes four to five days a week, for up to four hours per day. The daily schedule includes language and literacy activities, art, music, outdoor play, motor skills development, toilet training and other self-care activities, snack time, and more. Instruction is provided in Spanish if that is the child's primary language.

Classes are staffed by credentialed special education teachers, trained instructional assistants, and a team of support personnel that may include speech and language therapists, adaptive physical education specialists, occupational therapists, school nurses, psychologists, counselors, physical therapists, and education specialists.

SCOE Preschool classrooms are located in many areas of the county. When deciding on placements, IEP teams make every effort to place children in classrooms close to their home, but also consider which class provides the best match for each child. The size of the class, the needs of students in the class, and the particular skills of the teaching staff are all taken into consideration as placements are made. A school bus system is available to assist parents in transporting their children to and from assigned classrooms.

Preschool teachers regularly provide parents with student progress reports and are readily available to discuss any issues that arise. Parents are encouraged to visit the classroom, talk with the teacher, and actively support their child's learning.

One day per week is reserved for parent and teacher training, home visits, and consultation with other community agencies and programs that serve preschool students.

Co-Enrolled Head Start Classrooms

Head Start promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children.

Some students are eligible to participate in the SCOE/Head Start co-learning program. These children are enrolled as Head Start students, then receive special education services in their classrooms. The IEP team determines which students would benefit from this type of instruction. Most of these classes are bilingual

Spanish-English programs. On average, only five special needs students are enrolled in these Head Start classes.

MOVE, Mobility Opportunities Via Education

"The ability to move is the first foundation stone in building personal dignity."

—Dr. Linda Bidabe, MOVE International

Classes based on the MOVE curriculum offer opportunities to help children develop functional mobility skills. Teachers assigned to this program are specially trained to work with students who have severe orthopedic and medical challenges. A low child-to-adult ratio is maintained to ensure that students receive the intensive support they need.

A physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech and language therapist, and adaptive physical education specialist serve on the instructional team with the classroom teacher.

Students may utilize customized equipment to facilitate postural control and develop the motor skills needed for sitting, standing, and walking. Many kinds of adaptive technology devices are available for student use.

