**Autism-Specific Services**

Research-based programming addresses the unique needs of preschoolers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

The SCOE Early Childhood Education Program offers special day classes for students with autism spectrum disorders.

These classes use a variety of research-based methodologies, including TEACCH, Discrete Trial, Floortime, Picture Exchange Communication System, Pivotal Response Treatment, and relationship development.

SCOE also participates in providing collaborative autism diagnoses through a partnership with North Bay Regional Center and local school districts. Autism-specific programming is provided at one non-categorical and three intensive classrooms at the El Colegio campus in Rohnert Park.

**Referral and Enrollment**

Welcome to preschool—where learning is play, and play is learning.

Referrals to the SCOE Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program are initiated by local school districts. Parents seeking access to these services should contact the special education coordinator at their school district of residence. You can look up your district of residence at scoe.org/schools.

**Contact Us**

For more information about these services, contact the Sonoma County Office of Education Early Childhood Education program at (707) 522-3272.
Program 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. Services include: special day classes; programs that build mobility skills; specialized services for young children on the autism spectrum; and counseling and mental health services.

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

Special Day Classes

An environment where children can develop and "learn to learn" through active exploration, socialization, and communication.

Special day classes emphasize engaging children in play-based interventions that enhance sensory, social, pre-academic, motor, and communication development. Students attend classes five days per week, for up to five hours per day. The daily schedule includes language and literacy activities, art, music, outdoor play, motor skills development, toilet training and self-care activities, snack time, and more.

Credentialed Early Childhood Education-Special Education (ECE) teachers run the classrooms along with trained instructional assistants and a team of support personnel that may include speech and language therapists, adapted physical education specialists, occupational therapists, school nurses, psychologists, and physical therapists.

Classrooms are located in many areas around 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. Teams consider class size, the needs of students, and the particular skills of the teaching staff. A school bus system is available to assist parents in transporting children to and from assigned classrooms.

ECE teachers 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.

The first Friday of each month is reserved for parent and teacher training, home visits, and consultation with other community agencies and programs that serve preschool students.

MOVE: Mobility Opportunities Via Education

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

A physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech and language therapist, and adapted 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 assistive technology devices are available for students to use.