

Variety Child Learning Center (VCLC)

(Formerly known as Variety Pre-Schooler's Workshop)

Preschool children with disabilities (ages 2-5 years)



A year-round preschool program for students with disabilities:

- *Parents collaborate with program staff in identifying goals and interventions for both the home and school environments.*
- *Counseling, parent education, and after-school activities are available to participants and their families.*

Results



- *Children made statistically significant gains in rates of learning in the areas of language, social competence, cognition, and self-help skills.*
- *Parental involvement in their child's education increased.*

The Program

The Variety Child Learning Center (VCLC) provides special education for preschoolers with disabilities, including autism, with support services for their families. Parents are welcomed and involved in their child's educational program.

Children attend a preschool program that meets five days a week, year-round, at no cost to parents. Some children attend half-day and others full-day. A family-friendly, "open" school welcomes parents to visit, observe their child in the classroom or in related therapies, and/or relax and network in the parent lounge/library.

Parents collaborate with the school's interdisciplinary team in assessment, goal setting, and remediation. Using The Five P's, parents and teachers rate the child's observable behaviors to develop a baseline of current functioning and set goals and remediation plans for both school and home. This assessment task initiates the home-school link and shapes the collaboration and communication process, which recognizes parental expertise in matters pertaining to their own child.

Parents choose how and when, if at all, they access the array of available family support and informational services. An IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) is coordinated with the IEP (Individualized Education Program) and outlines the goals for the family. Counseling, parent education, Sunday respite, and after-school activities are available.

Professional Development

Training is individualized and available at either the developer or replication site. It focuses on the development of a family-friendly school culture; parental involvement in assessment, goal setting, and remediation; and support, informational, and educational resources for parents. VCLC has videos and other training materials, including The Five P's System, an assessment instrument for young children. It is available in both English and Spanish. On-going technical assistance through a toll-free telephone line is available. Follow-up is provided.

Costs & Funding Options

Training costs depend on the location of the replication site, the number of attendees, the number of sessions needed, and the amount of training materials distributed.

Learning Standards

This program increases rates of learning of young children with disabilities in the areas of language, social competence, cognition, and self-help skills. It welcomes and involves parents in their child's education.

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