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Next Step Summer Program Targeting Language/ Social /Academic Maintenance

- **What is Next Step Summer Program?**

The **Next Step Summer** program is designed to facilitate language development, social interaction, and academic support. This program is designed for children ages 4-7 to enhance their language and communication skills while also working on school readiness academic maintenance skills.

- **Who is involved in Next Step Summer?**

Our **Next Step Summer** staff includes trained teaching staff and certified Speech and Language Pathologists and Assistants who are involved on a daily basis. Our behavior analyst and occupational therapist work with our teaching staff and with the children.

The ages of the children are 4 to 7 years functioning.

- **How does it work?**

During this program children enjoy social and language groups, work on school readiness and maintaining essential academic skills, have snack and lunch with their peers, engage in art projects, as well as develop play and interactive skills under the guidance of trained professionals. Activities include calendar time, story time, art time, handwriting, fieldtrips, water day and lots of fun!

▪ **What are the goals of Next Step Summer?**

Our goals for this program include improving social interactions, expanding language and communication, maintaining and promoting academic skills, while giving the children the support to learn how to interact and follow the demands of a classroom. The **Next Step Summer Program** is based around a thematic unit to provide the children the ability to learn through meaningful activities.

A typical day at **Next Step Summer** targets the following goals:

- Learning cooperative play
- Learning to initiate and maintain play with peers
- Participating in activities that encourage social interaction, problem solving, critical thinking and peer play
- Learning to participate in group activities
- Learning language and play skills involving typical peers
- Learning calendar skills
- Participating in language arts curriculum
- Practicing handwriting skills
- Student classroom management

▪ **What are the requirements to begin?**

A child enrolling in the **Next Step Summer** program:

- Experiences challenges with communication and would benefit from professional guided interaction and/or
- Experiences challenges with social interactions and/or
- Experiences challenges with social communication and/or
- Experiences challenges following the demands of a classroom
- Needs improvement or support in the area of academics
- Has difficulties with handwriting skills
- Neurotypical children who would benefit from a smaller interactive setting and/or
- Have been determined by our professional staff to benefit from this program