

FUTURES NEWS

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Futures School Is Up And Running!

In the second quarter of the 2009-2010 school year, Futures School enrolled its second group of students (ranging from ages 3-11) into our full-time school program.

Students not only worked hard learning new academic skills using the Applied Behavior Analysis methodology, but also started improving their social skills in circle time, occupational therapy groups, and structured social skills groups.

Students also got moving with their new Adapted Physical Education (APE) programs, began generalizing skills during com-

munity outings, and started learning independent living skills such as snack-making and leisure schedules.

In the new year, students will start their individually based video modeling programs. Video modeling is a teaching methodology based on Applied Behavior Analysis that is designed to effectively teach social skills, play skills, and daily living skills in a systematic sequence of steps.

Futures mission is to collaborate with families, educators and medical clinicians, to build better “**futures**” for the child and their families. ABA techniques are individualized and implemented to help each child reach their fullest potential and enable them to live more productive and independent lives. Futures School utilizes the ABA methodology

and teaching techniques including positive reinforcement, errorless learning, prompt fading, video modeling and discrete trials. ABA techniques are individualized and implemented to help a child develop language, appropriate behaviors and responses, self-help, academic, daily living, play and social skill-sets.

For information about enrollment in the Futures School, please contact us at 1-978-993-8096.



Futures Social Skills Program

A discussion arose from a child during social group when he asked, “How come we get here and leave five minutes later?” With that said, it would be accurate to say the children enjoy coming to social group! The children participating in social groups have been working towards several goals to progress their development of socially appropriate skills. Each child has individualized goals

such as eye contact with peers and adults, attending to the task at hand, or answering Wh-questions – just to name a few. Given appropriate prompts from their teacher, the children will work toward these goals in order to engage appropriately while interacting with their peers.

New activities will be added into our social

skills groups for the new year which include cooking, science experiments, music and movement, and Legos.

For a full schedule please visit www.futuresbtc.com.

Congratulations to our two new Board Certified Behavior Analysts

Congratulations Katelyn Twomey, M.S. BCBA for passing the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Exam in January. Katelyn received her Bachelor’s degree from Endicott College and continued her education to obtain her Master’s Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Simmons

College in 2009. Currently, Katelyn is a valuable part of the Futures School and the development of behavior and educational programming for our intensive and integrated students with autism.

Kate Robinson, M.S. BCBA also received her Board Certified Behavior Analyst Certification in January and became our fifth full-time Board Certified Behavior Analyst on staff. Kate received her Bachelor’s degree from Endicott College and her Master’s Degree in Be-

havioral Education from Simmons College in 2009. Kate is a valuable member of our team and develops behavior and educational plans for our intensive full-time students as well as the students enrolled in our Life Skills Program.

"If a child cannot learn in the way we teach ... we must teach in a way the child can learn."
 -Dr. Ivar Lovaas



Integrated PreK & K Programs

The month of November focused on giving thanks for family and friends. The Futures Kindergarten class held a special Thanksgiving celebration for students and family. Families were invited to share their favorite meal and enjoy good company, as we remembered the importance of the holiday.

We also included a unit on transportation and discussed many different ways to travel, transportation safety and places that we would all like to visit. Our Science Lab series included a lesson on germs. Students learned ways to fight germs by washing their

hands and covering their nose when sneezing.

December was a busy month of traveling for our Kindergarten



students! They traveled all over the world to study holidays around the world. The children packed their passports, bags, and a snack and headed to Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Israel, Africa, and back

to the United States. On their journey, they learned about holidays and traditions which included, Hanukkah, Christmas, St. Lucia's Day, Kwanzaa and more! It was a long and wonderful journey.

In addition to the holiday journey, students completed a unit on food. Topics included: fruits and vegetables, special occasions, favorite foods, etc. In Science Lab, we discussed animals in winter. We talked about how animals survive by either storing food, finding food, or hibernating for the winter.

Students continued to learn how to be great friends, build relationships and be productive members of their class.

Life Skills Afterschool Program

November and December brought about many exciting developments for the life skills program at Futures. At the beginning of November, several students began volunteering once or twice a week at The Daily Bagel. This has been a tremendous experience for them. Each week, the students help out the Daily Bagel's employees with a variety of tasks such as washing dishes, wiping tables, wrapping food, stocking shelves, and assisting customers. This program has given the students a great deal of authentic work experience, and is preparing them to hold jobs in the future. We hope to continue and expand this program throughout 2010.

The majority of students are now also participating in a weekly cooking group with our occupational therapist.

Each week, the students assist Heather in making a different food. Then, after eating their snack, the students assist their peers in cleaning up the kitchen. The groups have made many tasty items including pancakes, grilled cheese sandwiches, and ginger bread houses. In addition to cooking, eating, and cleaning, the groups also learn about kitchen safety.

We look forward to our community outings in 2010 targeting community based skills such as utilizing the library, following lists in the grocery store, mailing letters at the post office, and visiting the bank. This has been an excellent year for all of the life skill students at Futures, and we are looking forward to another fantastic year in 2010.

Futures Fundraising

Thank you for all of your help with our SCRIP fundraising program!

Your hard work will enable Futures to buy our stove and dryer to help our students learn more independent daily living skills.



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