

Why Choose Stepping Stones School?

- Occupational, physical, and speech therapy, individual and group, included in tuition
- Therapeutic feeding program designed to develop oral motor skills and speech development
- Sensory integration incorporated into each child's individual classroom experience
- Family education, caregiver support, and advocacy resources
- Cutting edge technology incorporated in every classroom including iPads, Smart Boards, and Smart Tables
- Individualized approach to implementing each student's IEP goals and objectives
- Program designed to build independence and self-help skills
- Curriculum aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards
- Total Communication Program incorporated into classes to encourage receptive/expressive language development
- Staff trained in Handwriting Without Tears™ curriculum
- National Association of Special Education Teachers School of Excellence since 2010



Testimonial:

“What I love about Stepping Stones is that the staff expects so much from the kids and they don't put any limitations on them. They push the students to go beyond themselves. That's what I want my son to carry on. He shouldn't just settle for the mundane; he should continue to excel and go beyond what anyone expects of him.”

-Sheryl W., Parent of a Stepping Stones Student

About The Arc of Essex County:

The Arc of Essex County is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to helping children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities participate in every level of our society and enjoy fuller, more independent lives. The Arc of Essex County's mission is to provide comprehensive services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families ensuring a lifetime of achievement with dignity and full partnership in the community. Services include:

- Early Intervention
- Early Childhood Education
- Children & Family Services
- Camp Hope
- Recreation & Respite Programs for Adults & Children
- Transition Resource Services
- Adult Day Services & Supported Employment
- Adult Residential Services

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.arcessex.org.



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TheArcofEssexCounty



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About the Stepping Stones School:

The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School is a Department of Education Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities serving children ages 3-10. Located in Roseland, NJ, the school is designed to meet the developmental and educational needs of children with various cognitive impairments such as Down Syndrome.

Individualized instruction and tailored therapies based on the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) assist in the development of cognitive, social, physical and communication skills. A team of highly trained, professional staff and volunteers work cooperatively toward clearly defined student goals to help students achieve their highest potential.

History:

In the early 1950's, The Arc of Essex County began offering specialized classes for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. When New Jersey passed the Public School Education Act in 1975, The Arc engaged speech and physical therapists, as well as an educational consultant to continue offering educational services further tailored to students' needs.

In 1986, The Stepping Stones School was formally accredited by the State of New Jersey. Since 2010, The Stepping Stones School has been recognized annually as a National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET) School of Excellence.



Curriculum:

School curriculum aligns with the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. Faculty members teach traditional school subjects and incorporate innovative educational programming for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Curriculum highlights include:

- Handwriting Without Tears™
- Special Reads for Special Needs®
- Toilet Training
- Feeding/Oral Motor Program to Improve Sound Production and Feeding Skills
- Sensory Integration Activities for Brain Organization and Interpretation of Multi-Sensory Input
- Speech Therapy techniques including PROMPT® Therapy, tactile cues, American Sign Language, Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and Augmentative Assistance Communication (AAC)
- Rethink® curriculum available for applied behavior analysis (ABA)



Program Features:

The Stepping Stones School offers a full-day program which operates 210 days annually, including a six-week summer program.

More than 20 municipalities and school districts throughout NJ send students to The Stepping Stones School. Tuition is paid by the sending school district through an approved, out-of-district placement which provides students the most appropriate and beneficial educational opportunity. Transportation is also provided by the sending school district.

Faculty & Approach:

The Stepping Stones School utilizes a strong, interdisciplinary team approach to create, monitor and update an innovative, individualized and effective comprehensive learning plan for each student. The Department of Education certified team includes:

- Special Education Teachers
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Speech/Language Pathologists
- Social Worker
- School Nurse
- Principal

Other professional team members include:

- Teaching Assistants
- Music and Movement Instructors
- Volunteer Coordinator

