



Practical Application of Curriculum Skills

The PACS classroom is a classroom for children attending Coakley Middle School who presents with significant delays with respect to their cognitive, motor and language skills. These delays impact their abilities to access, comprehend and discuss concepts across all curricula areas. Instruction is provided in mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Technology, and History and Social Studies in accordance with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Social Studies. Students also have the opportunity to attend health, art, music, and computers with other student body.

Teaching is provided by a licensed Massachusetts special educator as well as by a highly qualified and experienced paraprofessionals and 1:1 aides as deemed appropriate.

There is instructional assistance available at all times to the students at a generally slower pace. There are many more opportunities for repetition and practice of new skills. The PACS classroom works hard to provide differentiated levels of teaching to enable all students the opportunity for learning real life skills. This is done primarily through the provision of a highly structured hands-on learning environment with predictable routine. Other standard teaching methods included in the classroom are:

- The provision visual and verbal cues along with physical prompts to assist with directions and transitions
- Demonstration and modeling of tasks to be completed
- Multi-sensory presentation of information to be learned
- Shorter work periods
- Task analysis when teaching each step of a new skill as well as hand over hand assistance when working with new or challenging tasks.
- Extra time and breaks when acquiring new tasks

Q&A

Do students in the Practical application of curriculum skills program attend school through the regularly scheduled school year? *Students attend the regular school day and school year. Provisions are made within the child's IEP for any extended year requirements.*

Do students in the Practical application of skills program participate in regularly scheduled MCAS testing? *Students in the PACS classroom will not usually take part in the scheduled MCAS testing but they do complete an alternative assessment portfolio that samples work samples over the course of the year to show their progression through ELA, Math, Science and social studies. Parents are invited to view the portfolios before they are submitted to the DOE.*