



## Sweet Pea Classroom



The Sweet Pea Classroom is full of 10 of our smallest children that are between 18 months and 2 ½ years old. As the youngest students of Learning Together, the Sweet Peas are reaching critical early development milestones in their inclusive classroom while their progress is assessed by their parents and teachers in order to properly identify their needs early on.

During this time in a child's life, they are participating in large and small group activities in Learning Centers. Skills developed during this age in the Learning Centers are social/emotional skills such as building relationships with care givers and peers, as well as communication, early learning and thinking, and movement and physical activities. Learning Together places an emphasis on the importance of play as an instructional strategy that promotes learning in early childhood. Children in the Sweet Pea room are learning to develop one to three word sentences, learning to play with toys functionally and independently, and following one step commands.

For these children, each day brings the opportunity for new achievements and helps prepare them for success. The Sweet Peas is an inclusive classroom which provides educational services to children with and without Developmental Delays. Children with delays have an individualized Family Service Plan designed to give them the support needed to achieve their highest potential. Data is collected weekly by the Sweet Pea teaching team to track progress towards all areas of development including literacy, mathematics, early learning, language, physical, and social/emotional development.

For children with Developmental Delays, support services include Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. These services are provided either directly or through teacher support, where therapists consult with our teachers, giving them the tools needed to help implement goals within the classroom setting. Our Teachers are also trained to work with families, offering resources and guidance needed through the early years.

*"The first time I entered the Sweet Peas classroom I knew there was something special happening when I heard the sounds of children singing and laughing, and saw all the colors and toys! For many of the children, this was their first taste of a structured classroom environment. But Mrs. Rosa and her team fill the day with so many fun activities, the young ones are motivated to learn! With just the right combination of structure and compassion, Mrs. Rosa and her teacher assistants provide a safe and fulfilling environment for the children to explore, learn and play. I've seen children blossom from shy and tentative on their first day, to excited and interactive young students. The Sweet Peas classroom is full of energy, excitement and love!"*

- Pete Shavone, weekly Sweet Pea classroom volunteer