



Admissions Policy **COMAR 13A.09.10.09D.(1)-(4).**

The Shafer Center for Early Intervention admits students based on the current level of need in the autism community. We have a rolling admission policy and our classrooms are mixed age/mixed grade. We serve children in the grades Nursery (3 years old) through 5th Grade. Our classrooms are homogenous and children are placed in a classroom based on their academic, language, and social strengths and needs, not on their age or grade. We will open new classrooms as the need arises. We accept boys and girls in the 2-14 year old age range with an autism spectrum disorder, speech and language delay, mental retardation, specific learning disability, social delay, and/or sensory processing issues.

The Shafer Center for Early Intervention accepts children of any academic performance level; children are not required to have any specific pre-requisite skills prior to admittance, but are required to match other children in a given classroom. If a child required seclusion as part of their Behavior Intervention Plan or as part of their IEP, that would preclude their admission into the program. In addition, if a child was a serious safety risk to themselves or others, that would require in-patient hospitalization that would preclude admission.

The Shafer Center for Early Intervention has an extensive admissions procedure which will help determine the appropriate placement and goals for each child. Students will be matched based on all or some of the following criteria:

- Diagnosis
- Age
- Academic/Cognitive Development
- Speech and Language Development
- Fine and Gross Motor Development
- Social Skills and Group Interaction Skills
- Adaptive and Behavioral Skills

Children are placed in groups with other children of similar or complimentary skill areas. The Shafer Center for Early Intervention reserves the right to move a child into a different classroom based on that child's needs. Any child that is five years old on or before September 1st in a given year is eligible to participate in the Kindergarten curriculum.

The Shafer Center for Early Intervention does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or against qualified persons with disabilities. Admission to the program does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or against persons with disabilities.