



Parent Information Packet

The **Allegro Foundation...a Champion for Children with Disabilities** is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization which has 20 programs throughout Charlotte in Elementary Schools, Preschools/Pre-Kindergartens and Community outreach programs. We follow the NC Standard Course of study in the Health and Physical Education curriculum for Healthy Active Children in all programs.

Our Mission:

To combine movement instruction together with education and medical expertise; creating a new techniques to teach children with disabilities and enhance their quality of life.

The children we teach are individuals with intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, orthopedic challenges (wheelchairs and walkers), spina bifida, autism, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, visual and hearing impairments, learning disabilities, children at risk, and children with cancer.

Our **basic philosophy** emphasizes the total learning process combining **cognitive** and **muscle memory** together to stimulate sequential and conceptual learning, problem-solving skills and communication, increasing physical coordination /motor skills, as well as producing emotional and physiological changes in the body.

The Allegro Foundation seeks to enhance life skills that improve the quality of life for children with disabilities. We teach and serve children with disabilities along with typically developing children and the community. We want children with disabilities to be viewed and to view themselves not by the challenges they face but by the capabilities they possess.

****All Programs are FREE****

Class Benefits

First and foremost, children, regardless of their ability status, need to have fun!

This movement education program is developed to help children experience the same joy, entertainment, and fun as typically developing children involved in any movement education class. Moving to music with their peers as part of a class specifically designed to address their special situations is expected to be a pleasurable social activity. **However, the Allegro Foundation movement education program is not viewed as recreational.**

Physically, the student will be paired with a peer tutor to move, stretch and strengthen their bodies.

Academically, the participants learn about anatomy as well as math via shape studies, patterns, counting, etc.

Cognitively, the children will have academic information reinforced using their bodies and movement as a way to learn kinesthetically.

In order to help the children achieve and reinforce learning, the movement education program combines creativity and innovative techniques with instruction in Positional, Academic and Language Concepts; Social Skills; and Integration.

Class Description

Movement education classes will be offered during the school day on site at your school to 20 students with disabilities with 20 Peer tutors.

Weekly classes will be 30 minutes. Public presentations/performances will be conducted; family, friends, local media, and the medical and arts communities will be invited.

Our Classes develop, stimulate and increase:

- Gross and Fine Motor Skills
- Sequential and conceptual learning
- Concentration and attention skills
- Problem solving
- Communication skills
- Independence and self-esteem

Class Objectives:

- Positional Concepts – learning to travel beside, behind, in line, around, back, etc.
- Academic Concepts – numbers, shapes, sequences, patterns
- Language Concepts- dance terminology, following directions, conversations with instructors and peers, reporting feelings about class, asking questions
- Social Skills – taking turns, working with peers, classroom behavior, ect.

Dress Code:

- Female and Male Students: Pants or shorts, t-shirt and tennis/running shoes for class.
- No midriff shirts, no clothing with suggestive language
- Absolutely NO open toed shoes.

Student Assessments/ Evaluations

To determine progress, goals will be developed using input from academic teacher, movement education instructors, peers, and the student, if appropriate.

A form of a standardized assessment instrument, the “PF Scale”, will used by the instructor and assessors to record all or some of the following:

- Receptive and expressive language growth
- Phonological processing
- Sequencing/patterns skills
- Attention span
- Gross motor skills
- Posture
- Range of motion
- Dexterity
- Bilateral coordination
- Social development
- Appropriate classroom behaviors

A combination of pre-and post-testing, photographs/videos, anecdotal notes, parent/child interviews, and data sheets will provide information from which to assess each student’s progress and accomplishments. Observation along with videos and/or photographs will be collected to provide written and visual documentation.

Evaluations will be drawn from:

Observations by parents/family members
Input from academic instructors
Evidence revealed by video records

Observations by program staff
Regular feedback from the participant
Changes noted by medical professionals

Dimensions to be documented for evidence of progress:

- These items may be evaluated as determined by the Allegro or school team:

Eye contact with instructor and peers
Conversation skills and peer interactions
Problem solving
Counting

Class participation
Movement Education and anatomy terminology
Learning patterns of movement
Physical dexterity