



A May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities



SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA



Personalized learning experience.



The Bay School is a California certified Nonpublic School (NPS). It serves school districts seeking placement for special education NPS-eligible students with ASD and other developmental disabilities.

The school is designed to implement the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals of these students and provide appropriate designated instruction and related services on an individually contracted basis.

Students are referred by a variety of other professionals and programs, including parents, public and nonpublic school special education programs, pediatricians, psychologists, and other healthcare professionals.

The Bay School is dedicated to providing educational and intervention services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, and to their families. It is a place where students establish a strong foundation on which to build a meaningful life.

Founded in 1999, this year-round school in Santa Cruz, Calif., serves students from age 5 through 22. The ultimate goal of the program is to facilitate the student's successful transition back into public schools.

The Bay School operates for 229 days during a calendar year, depending upon IEP requirements for an individual student and/or contracting school district.

The Bay School is part of May Institute, a national organization of award-winning programs for children and adults with ASD and other special needs.

Instructional Methods

The school's education and treatment approach is based on the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), an intervention program that applies principles of behavior to learning. ABA is monitored by objective data measures to assess desired outcomes. Skills are systematically taught through highly structured individualized and small group teaching sessions.

The defining characteristic of our instructional program is the use of explicit and systematic instruction. These instructional strategies are used both in highly structured settings and in more natural settings, as a means of facilitating generality and increasing the motivation of children with ASD and other developmental disabilities.

State-of-the-art teaching procedures such as direct instruction, discrete trial teaching, precision teaching, observational learning, and incidental teaching are used to teach each student meaningful skills to maximize participation at school, at home, and in the community.

Individualized Curriculum

The Bay School's curriculum addresses the individual needs of each student. From the first day a child enters one of our classrooms, we begin to carefully create a personal learning experience, assessing needs and developing specific goals and objectives. Teaching programs are developed based on each student's educational and behavioral needs. In addition to one full-time teacher in each classroom, the staff-student ratio is one-to-one.

We record data daily on all goals and objectives in each student's IEP. Our highly structured systems enable us to regularly measure progress, re-evaluating and adjusting each individual program, as necessary, in order to constantly challenge, motivate, and encourage each child. We work closely with families and strongly encourage them to observe their child in programming, attend parent meetings, and

implement teaching procedures in the home.

Highly Trained Staff

Students at The Bay School are surrounded by caring, highly trained professionals seeking to improve the quality of life of the students in their care. The program is supervised by a Ph.D.-level director specializing in autism education. The school staff are uniquely qualified to provide the level of specialized care that enables each child to make significant and ongoing improvements in behavior, communication, and social skills. These improvements result from the tireless work of the staff combined with our uncompromising commitment to the highest standards.

Teachers at The Bay School are certified by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing as Specialists (Moderate-to-Severe) in Special Education. They work with students one-on-one and in small groups, combining best practices from the fields of ABA and special education.

Journey Into Adulthood

As students move out of the classroom and into the community, we focus on making their transitions as smooth as possible. Our Supported Employment Program offers our adolescents and young adults opportunities to engage in valuable volunteer or paid work experiences in integrated community work settings.



Applied Behavior Analysis: Effective and Individualized

What most attracts parents to a program of applied behavior analysis (ABA) are its positive and reinforcing tone, its strong focus on teaching new skills, the documentation of progress in reports and charts, its foundation in research, and the manner in which it is individualized for every child.

ABA is a methodology, or framework, that applies scientific interventions to address behavioral needs. ABA facilitates the development of language, social interactions, and independent living by applying basic behavioral practices — positive reinforcement, teaching in small steps, prompting, and repeated practice. ABA can also help reduce both everyday social problems and serious behavior disorders.

Hundreds of scientific studies have shown that ABA is the most effective method to teach children and adolescents with ASD and other developmental disabilities. ABA has been endorsed by the National Institutes of Health and the Association for Science in Autism Treatment, and has been identified by the Surgeon General of the United States as the most effective way to treat autism.



The Bay School Snapshot:

Age range served: 5 – 22 years

Educational method: Applied behavior analysis (ABA)

Staff-student ratio: 1:1

Length of program: Full-day, 12-month

“I had the misconception that a behavioral approach might be cold and rigid. But even though ABA is a science, your creative teachers make it into an art as well. Gabe’s teacher has such a passion for understanding his behavior and a commitment to meeting his needs on every single level. I get choked up thinking about the simple fact that, thanks to The Bay School, my child is happy.”

— Jessie Gonzales, Parent

To learn more about The Bay School or to arrange a tour, please contact us at **831.462.9620, ext. 212.**

1026 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, California 95062 | www.thebayschool.org | info@mayinstitute.org

About May Institute

May Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides educational, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, and other behavioral health needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public schools.

Since its founding nearly 60 years ago, May Institute has evolved into an award-winning national network that serves thousands of individuals and their families annually at more than 150 service locations across the country. The Institute is an active center of research and training, maintaining affiliations with more than 50 universities, hospitals, and human service agencies worldwide.

The Institute has several May Centers Schools that serve children and adolescents with ASD and other developmental disabilities—some offer residential living. In addition to the school in Santa Cruz, Calif., there are schools in Randolph, West Springfield, and Woburn, Mass.

