



The Alexa's PLAYC program is designed to support children with ASD in building social and communication skills. Our classrooms are staffed with highly trained professionals, and are structured to support many of the special needs seen in children with ASD. However, the classrooms are busy and serve a large number of students. While we would like to be able to adequately address the needs of all children with ASD, no one program can meet the needs of every child. We have carefully assessed the types of readiness skills needed for children to gain maximum benefit from our program. Skills that have shown to predict success for children with ASD enrolled in the Alexa's PLAYC preschool inclusion environment include:

1. Nonverbal cognitive functioning of at least 2½-3 years of age (may vary by classroom).
2. Consistent use of spontaneous phrases for multiple functions including requesting, protesting and commenting. This may include words, sign language, or an augmentative communication system.
3. Previous involvement in treatment of any type
4. Minimal behavior challenges in group setting (i.e., aggression, self-injurious behaviors, and frequent temper tantrums)
5. The ability to play with toys appropriately and independently for short periods of time (5-10 minutes)
6. Consistent participation in parallel play with other children (is not avoidant). Active cooperative play is not required
7. Remains appropriately engaged in group activities for 5 minutes independently

