

UNGRADED CLASSROOMS

The Right Approach to Learning

Ungraded Classrooms and the Miriam School

Children at the Miriam School achieve success in ungraded classrooms of 10 children. Students work with a team consisting of a certified special education teacher, an assistant teacher, a Speech/Language Pathologist and an Occupational Therapist. Through an Individual Education Plan (IEP), each child works towards measurable goals in



classroom content areas, as well as in specialized areas to address attention deficits, speech or language delays, or small/gross motor impairments. Students in each classroom are grouped academically, developmentally and socially to provide the best possible programmatic environment.

Why are ungraded classrooms the right approach for students with learning disabilities?

If a child is diagnosed with a reading disability, she must have a measurable difference between her aptitude (IQ: what she should be able to achieve) and her achievement in reading. This hypothetical child is a 4th grade age student who reads at a third grade level. Her math performance, however, tests at a sixth grade level. At the Miriam School, she is grouped with other children in a similar age range who learn as she does, who enjoy the same activities, and who respond to the same style of teaching. Her academics in each content area are enhanced by the expertise of language pathologists and occupational therapists. Her certified special education teacher works with the other professionals and her parents to present clearly understood goals for achievement in reading and mathematics. She finds success, and for the first time in her life, she demonstrates self confidence in activities with children who are her own age. When she transitions to a more traditional classroom setting, she is prepared, self-confident, and able to advocate for herself using the skills and compensatory strategies she has mastered while attending the Miriam School.

The Miriam School, founded in 1956, serves children Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade with multiple learning disabilities, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, auditory processing deficits, and/or speech/language problems. Children achieve in ungraded classrooms taught by certified special education teachers in a team approach with speech/language therapists and occupational therapists.

For more information, please call 314.968.5225.