

SAC is an intensive, highly structured, language and social skills based classroom model offering intensity through the concentrated number of quality opportunities for learning engagement.

Each classroom utilizes behavioral modification strategies throughout the course of the day in addition to other evidence based practices for success with children with autism.

Each student is provided a highly individualized and flexible program by well trained teachers and service providers.



Kindergarten - 5th Grade Program

This is a full day program per school calendar.



Capistrano Unified School District

Education Support Services

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Capistrano Unified School District

Elementary Structured Autism Class (SAC)



A structured
environment to help
students achieve skills
in behavior, language,
and social skills
Kindergarten – 5th
Grade

Structured Autism Class teachers receive ongoing advanced training in the following areas:

Evidence based practices for children with autism
Assistive technology
Inclusion and mainstreaming
Generalization and maintenance
Behavioral Management

ABA methods
Social skills
Structuring environments
Data collection
Errorless Learning

Naturalistic and incidental teaching
Communication and language
Assessment
Curriculum
Prompting and Reinforcement

Structured Environment

- Individual student schedules, as needed
- Lessons taught in short, planned intervals
- Frequent repetition and breaks
- Clear classroom visual boundaries
- Environmental supports for facilitating student's ability to predict events, anticipate change, and understand expectations
- 1:1, 2:1, and small group learning
- Visual strategies and supports
- Structured teaching
- Increasing ability to attend in presence of distractions

Social Skills Development

- Techniques for increasing interaction and responses to peers
- Direct instruction in pro-social behaviors
- Peer buddies and models
- Reverse mainstreaming
- Social stories
- Role plays and social scripts
- Development of perspective taking

Curriculum

- Integrated model of education strategies for ASDs
- Functionally appropriate activities & materials for meaningful learning
- Modified core curriculum
- Direct instruction in all skill domains
- Language and social skills emphasis across all activities
- Instructional adaptations and accommodations
- Mainstreaming opportunities
- Varied materials to teach concepts

Each site has access to the following support providers:

- Speech-Language Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Adapted Physical Education Teacher
- Assistive Technology Teacher
- Behavior Support Services Team
- Coordinator II, Program and Behavior Support

Behavioral Supports

- Promoting active engagement
- High rate of positive reinforcement
- Prompting to ensure success
- Maximizing independent functioning
- Increasing attending for learning and social interactions
- Token economies, as needed
- Self-regulation and self-monitoring
- Generalization and maintenance
- Data collection for evaluating progress
- Building routines
- Solving behaviors functionally
- Alerting and calming strategies
- Replacement and shaping of maladaptive behaviors
- Antecedent and consequence-based behavior plans and interventions
- Individualized lessons broken down into component skills
- Strong collaboration across providers, staff, and parents