PATHWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

957 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue

Mobile, AL 36603

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Autism and Behavioral Learning Extension (ABLE)

Parent Handbook

**Program overview**

The Autism and Behavioral Learning Extension is a special program of Mobile County Public School System located at Pathway K-5 Elementary School. The program is designed for students with autism who exhibit challenging behaviors that makes it difficult for them to be successful in their home school. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) has been proven to be an effective treatment for students with autism; therefore, all staff will be trained to use ABA principals when delivering instruction and/or when implementing behavior techniques in the classroom. Family training will be offered, and strongly encouraged, for all family members who take an active role in the student’s life. A Board-Certified Behavior Analyst will supervise all behavioral services being provided at the program.

**Student Enrollment**

A referral to the ABLE program can be submitted at any time during the school year. Referrals should be made for students who engage in severe behavior such as aggression to others, aggression to property, and/or self-injurious behavior. Other behaviors of concern will be observed and considered on an individual basis.

The student will be observed by a Mobile County Public School Behavior Analyst or a Teacher from the ABLE program and reviewed by a screening committee to ensure that changes the student’s school placement if the most appropriate and least restrictive option. The ABLE program is an optional placement; therefore, the parent has the right to accept or refuse placement.

**Family Involvement**

The ABLE program recognizes that parent involvement is key to the student’s overall success. The ABLE program encourages parents to get involved in their student’s program development. Training on Applied Behavior Analysis techniques will be available to all interested family members of students in the program.

**Intake Meeting**

An intake meeting will be scheduled with the referring school, parent, student, Central Office Special Education Resource Teacher for the referring school, and a representative(s) from Pathway K-5. The team will discuss the services provided in the ABLE program, a proposed start date, and make any necessary changes to the student’s Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). The parent will receive a parent handbook and any assessment forms that may need to be completed.

**Crisis Management**

Behavioral techniques will be utilized to reinforce appropriate behavior and re-direct maladaptive behaviors. In situations where a student cannot be verbally de-escalated and there is immediate, imminent risk of the student harming himself or others, Professional Crisis Management techniques will be utilized. Only certified personnel will implement the procedures and every effort will be made to end the restraint at the earliest time it is safe to do so. The restraint will be documented, and the parent will be notified every time a restraint is used.

**Progress Reviews**

Behavioral and/or academic assessments and baseline data will be started as soon as the student begins the program. An IEP meeting will be scheduled within 30 -45 days of entrance to the program to discuss the student’s behavioral intervention plan. The behavior review committee will then meet quarterly to discuss each student’s progress and determine if the student will remain in the program or start the transition back to the home school. The ultimate goal of the program is to stabilize behavior, determine the most effective behavioral strategies, and get the student back into his/her home school as soon as possible.

**Transition Process**

When a student in the ABLE program meets his/her behavioral goals, an IEP meeting will be held with the IEP team members at the ABLE program and the student’s home school. The team will create a transition plan that will help the student transition back to his/her home school as smoothly as possible. Training will be provided by the ABLE program to the home school for all staff interested.

**Hours of Operation and Visitation**

The ABLE program will be open Monday-Friday from 7:25-2:25 on the campus of Pathway K-5. The ABLE program will follow Mobile County Public School’s school calendar for closings. Bus transportation will be provided for all students regardless of the location of his/her home school. If a parent visits the ABLE program for any reason (to drop off a student, early dismissal, etc.) he/she must sign in at the main office. Proper identification will be checked, and an unauthorized person will not be allowed to check out a student. Changes to a student’s transportation arrangements must be made in writing. Also, if a student is dropped off, the student must be left in the supervision of a Pathway K-5 employee before the supervising adult leaves the premises.

**Meals and Snacks**

Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students. Parents are asked to provide one snack for the student to have during the school day.

**Miscellaneous Information**

All students will follow Mobile County Public School’s attendance policy, illness policy, and medication regulations. The ABLE program will close for severe weather any time that MCPSS is closed.