

## **Primary Intervention Program (PIP) Facts for Parents**

***What is the Primary Intervention Program (PIP)?*** PIP is a child-centered, school-based early intervention and prevention program designed to enhance school related skills, enhance social & emotional growth, and assist with school adjustment for children. This time for a child is 'free-time' which really means, that it is a way for a child to express his/her instinctive, creative self, in a structured therapeutic playroom environment. In this environment the one-to-one adult is noticing what the child is doing and acknowledges verbally each and every step of the way. This promotes the child's ability to understand herself/himself and her/his feelings along the way.

***What are the benefits of PIP for my child?*** PIP enhances any child's social, emotional and intellectual lives, helping them to be more in touch with who they are, more expressive of their creative natural selves, and more aware of life's transitions and changes. Increased sense of self, understanding emotions, feelings and interactions with friends and family are but a few of the benefits. During playroom time, a child is given a bit of down time or a break away. All behaviors, feelings and emotions of children are normal; shyness, anxiety, defiance, changes in mood, social differences, aggression, adjustments to transitions, new or stressful changes in life). An opportunity for children's expression of these many possibilities is given to each child as (s)he expresses during play in the playroom, which helps the child to feel more at ease with their existence in the physical world.

***What will my child do in the program?*** Your child will play in the therapeutic playroom, filled with two sand trays and inviting assortment of hero figures, transportation vehicles, houses, cows, horses, dogs, cats, lions, tigers, elephants, fairies & unicorns, people, trees, flowers, whales, and sharks, an art space with colorful paints, markers, a small fort area with a blanket and pillow, a doll with many accessories, a tool box filled with tools and keys, a doctor's kit and many kitchen items, including food and lots of fluffy, colorful friends in the form of stuffed animals and puppets. The playroom becomes a 'magical place' for many children and is a safe, and revered place for them to communicate through their play. Your child's play is really up to him or her, within a structured and supportive environment and lasts for 30 minutes each week. Sessions may be only a few up to the entire school year, depending on each child.

***How are parents involved and how will parents be informed about their child's playroom sessions?*** Parents are asked to sign a permission form and short referral form for their child to participate. Parents and the PIP Coordinator may meet periodically (2-3 times or talk by phone) to mark your child's growth, brainstorm ideas and/or what seems most useful for the child at that time. Parents are encouraged to communicate directly and openly with the coordinator about any questions or concerns at anytime during the child's participation in PIP.

