**Vermilion Association for Special Education**

**Criteria for Placement in Life Skills Program**

A student may be found eligible to receive support within the Life Skills Program by an IEP team who determines that the intensity of the students’ needs in the areas of communication, academic instruction, independent functioning and behavior support cannot be addressed through a cross categorical program or with supplementary aids and services.

**LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM**

Students considered for this program are from five through twenty-one years of age who qualify for special education under the one or more following disability categories:

1. Intellectual Disability
2. Developmental Delay
3. Traumatic Brain Injury
4. Autism
5. Multiple Disabilities

**The program is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, existing concurrently with deficits in two or more areas of adaptive behavior as measured by conventional instruments designed for the assessment of Intellectual Disability.**

Adaptive Functioning is defined as: communication, self-care, home living, social/interpersonal skills, use of community resources, self-directions, functional academic skills, work leisure, health & safety

Students considered for this program exhibit moderate delays or deficits in the majority of the following skill areas:

1. Activities of Daily Living
2. Cognitive Development
3. Fine and Gross Motor Skills
4. Communication
5. Socialization/Behavior and/or Emotional Maturity

This program would be appropriate for students requiring a highly structured program with adaptive modifications in curricula as needed to support the following long-term educational/functional goals:

1. Preparation for community living (semi-independent or supervised)
2. Supported employment
3. Basic social skills for functioning in the public schools at the elementary and middle school age levels and the greater community at the middle school and secondary levels
4. Academic instruction designed to address participation in school activities with peers, home living skills, social skills, self-direction, community awareness, safety skills, and employment/volunteer.

Placement in the Life skills Program will be considered on the basis of:

1. Significant delays or deficits in adaptive behavior
2. General intellectual functioning between 2.5 and 3 standard deviations below the mean for the student’s chronological age
3. Developmental and medical history
4. Having met the criteria listed in the above statements