



## Private School Primary Education

The Riley Behavioral and Educational Center operates a private school for children ages 7-11. The private school focuses on academic instruction for the primary grades based on the curriculum recommendations in the Alabama Course of Study and research-based best practices in the field of special education. This highly structured classroom environment is language-based and seeks to prepare primary education students for transitioning into mainstreamed classrooms with typical peers. All students receive instruction in the four core academic areas of Reading, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. They also receive one-on-one academic tutoring to enhance skills in phonics, math, and/or handwriting.

### Curriculum:

- **Reading Comprehension/Spelling/Vocabulary—*Reading Milestones***
  - *Reading Milestones* is a research-supported curriculum shown to be effective with children with language delays as well as special language and reading needs.
- **Written and Oral Language**
  - *Teaching Competence in Written Language*: Based on research, this curriculum systematically teaches sentence production, sentence elaboration/expansion, and paragraph construction through a visual approach. It encourages students to build mind pictures which allow them to participate actively in the construction and expression of individual ideas.
  - *Shurley Grammar*: Using a concrete set of questions about each word in a sentence, this curriculum teaches students how all the parts of a sentence fit together.
- **Math—Individual**
  - Each child's mathematical skills will be assessed and appropriate programming developed to address individual weaknesses. Math curricula currently in use include *Saxon Math* and *Math Their Way*. Both programs use a hands-on approach to teach and practice mathematical concepts.
- **Social Studies, Science, Art, Music, & PE**—Based on Alabama Course of Study
  - These subjects are taught using a collection of high quality units that meet research-based standards for teaching children with autism. Student interest, academic ability, and state curriculum requirements are considered when choosing units of study.

### Additional Support for Teachers, Staff and Families:

- Parent Support Meetings—held monthly. These meetings provide information on issues concerning autism, pervasive developmental delay, and other related disorders.
- On-going Staff Development/Training—these sessions focus on the implementation of research-based best practices in the fields of autism and education

### Our Private School staff consists of:

- Certified special education teachers
- Certified academic tutor
- Licensed speech pathologist
- Licensed occupational therapist