



KidsPeace Lehigh Valley Schools

Description

KidsPeace provides educational services for day and residential pupils located in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. Planned courses have all the necessary objectives, content, expected levels of achievement and procedures for the evaluation and fulfillment of graduation requirements for our students. Our core curriculum is also approved by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). KidsPeace Schools are licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and credits earned while in the program are transferred to the client's home school district. KidsPeace may issue a diploma when appropriate. Expected length of stay is determined by a child's successful achievement of treatment goals.

Population Served

The program serves males and females in grades one through 12 who display one or more of the following disabilities: seriously emotionally disturbed (SED), mental retardation (MR), learning disabled (LD) and/or exhibit developmental delays, learning problems, psychological distress and divergent behavioral patterns. In addition, KidsPeace Schools can accommodate some students who are not identified as being in need of special education but would benefit from the services available.

Education services are designed for students who may exhibit one or more of the criteria listed below:

- Students admitted to the program must have a DSM-IV-TR diagnosis indicating the presence of a mental disorder that has had significant impact on the student's family, school and/or social functioning.
- Student manifests a current or recent past history of depressive behavior resulting in suicidal ideation or plan or action requiring a past psychiatric hospitalization.
- Student has been identified as a victim of abuse and manifests either depressive, self-abusive and/or aggressive, angry, acting-out behaviors as a means for compensating and/or resolving victim status on a moderate to frequent basis (i.e., physically assaulting staff, teachers and other students several or more times per week).
- Student currently or has recently experienced poly-substance use and experimentation after completing previous substance abuse treatment resulting in relapse, or having failed to abstain from poly-substance use in the face of peer and/or social influence.
- Student currently or has recently demonstrated moderate to severe psychiatric disturbances (i.e., visual and/or verbal hallucinations, anxiety/panic attacks or obsessive compulsive behaviors) resulting in prior psychiatric hospitalizations with period of respite; or has experienced failed placements due to the inability to successfully benefit from less structured program intensity or supervision.
- Student has experienced difficulties with proper peer/social interaction and/or potential bonding resulting in isolative, withdrawn or socially inept/immature behaviors. The student may have experienced failed adoptions or parental abandonment.
- Student has demonstrated behaviors that have precluded successful placement and treatment in less restrictive program (i.e., assaultive, oppositional, aggressive, or explosive behavior to peers and/or staff, in addition to absconding or fire-setting behaviors).
- Student has experienced moderate to severe difficulties with proper peer/social interactions and/or potential bonding resulting in isolative, withdrawn or socially inept/immature behaviors. Behaviors demonstrated as a means for compensating and/or resolving past incidents of abuse.
- Students require a self-contained residential setting, 24-hour supervision and a structured, daily treatment and habilitation milieu.
- Students who have an active psychosis and are currently under the control of medication.
- Students who are able to manage basic self care skills.
- Students who do not present with physical problems requiring intensive medical management.

KidsPeace provides a structured academic program that is located on the main campus in Orefield, PA. Students have access to a curriculum that meets their academic and behavioral needs plus additional coursework to promote self-awareness, human growth and development, building healthy relationships in order to promote self-confidence and individual well-being.

Educational Services

The school curriculum is tailored to meet specific population needs. Services available include the following:

- Speech therapy
- Individual, group and family counseling
- Reality therapy
- Transition services
- Clinical evaluations
- Therapeutic recreation

For additional information or admission, please contact:

KidsPeace National Centers, Admissions Department, 5300 KidsPeace Drive, Orefield, PA 18069-9101 • admissions@kidspeace.org • 800-8KID-123



- Routine medical monitoring (including medication administration)
- Life Space Crisis Intervention (LSCI)
- Population-specific behavior intervention plans
- Mobile Support Staff Supervisors to work with students on Transition-to-Work skills and Life Management
- Certified Guidance Counselors who teach specific courses to reinforce transitioning (Career Assessment & Counseling). Guidance Counselors meet students on an individual basis for specific academic and behavioral needs.
- Crisis Counseling – Available daily on an as-needed basis. Weekly sessions can be scheduled as deemed necessary.
- Curriculum-guided courses encompassing problem-solving, decision-making, self-management and expression and vocational and social skills
- Certified Health and Physical Education Teachers teaching Human Growth and Development
- Certified History Teachers teaching Ethics and Citizenship
- School Nurse presenting quarterly seminars to address Hygiene and Healthy Lifestyles
- Specialized Staff Training
- Specialized Interventions – Positive behavior programs provide guidance for specific client needs
- Functional Behavioral Assessments as needed
- Pennsylvania Standards Aligned Curriculum

Treatment Team

The Educational Program provides educational staff consisting of a classroom that has a lower student to staff ratio, teacher aides and administrative and support staff as is necessary to provide educational services, counseling and crisis services. Master treatment plans are designed for each client by an interdisciplinary treatment team (ITT) with input from the child's family and referral source. Teams may be composed of, but are not limited to, the following:

- Client and family
- Board certified psychiatrists
- Registered nurses
- Certified special education teachers/certified secondary education teachers
- Certified supervisor of special education or certified principal.
- School liaisons
- Board certified pediatricians
- Mental health workers
- Master's level counselors
- Certified expressive therapists (music, art, dance)
- Licensed clinical psychologists
- Licensed social workers
- Certified addictions counselors
- Mobile support staff

Telephone prescreening available. Please be prepared to provide the following:

- Biopsychosocial history
- Current psychiatric, psychological evaluations
- Pertinent medical data including medications, immunization records
- Current Individualized Education Plan (IEP), relevant educational information and reports
- Current progress reports/treatment plans, if the client currently resides or has recently resided in another facility.

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