Who Can Serve as a Role Model?

Residents of Portsmouth and children of employees of Portsmouth Public Schools who will be 3 years old by June 30th but 4 years old after October 1 can apply to serve as role models.

How Can I Apply?

Applications can be obtained during preschool registration every spring or in the Office of Special Education. Applications are due in May, screenings are done in May/June, and families are notified of acceptance in July. If you would like additional information, please contact:

Office of Special Education
2801 Turnpike Road
(757) 393-8471

What are the Expectations of the Role Model?

Role models are expected to:

- Pass a screening conducted by appointment
- Complete the PPS enrollment process
- Arrive at school on time and attend daily
- Be a positive role model for other students in the classroom
- Participate in all class activities
- Abide by all PPS school policies and the Reverse Inclusion Handbook
- Embrace the “4 E’s” of our program: Encourage, Expose, Explore, & Experience
What is Reverse Inclusion?

Our Preschool Reverse Inclusion classrooms are language-based learning environments where children with and without disabilities engage in play activities supporting Virginia’s Foundation Blocks for Early Learning in developmentally appropriate ways.

Who Teaches Reverse Inclusion?

The teachers in our Reverse Inclusion classrooms are master’s level Early Childhood Special Education teachers. They are driven educators, dedicated to the successful education of all students in their care. Each classroom also has an Assistant.

Who are the Children in Reverse Inclusion?

A Reverse Inclusion classroom has a maximum of 16 students. Up to half of the students are children with disabilities ages 2 and 3. The remaining students in the classroom are typically developing three year olds who serve as role models for students with disabilities.

Students with disabilities are placed in Reverse Inclusion classrooms according to their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Typically developing peers must apply for the program and be selected as a peer role model.

What are the Benefits of Reverse Inclusion?

Our program is specially designed to meet the educational needs of both typically developing students and students with special needs.

This opportunity allows children to:

- Develop positive self-concepts
- Learn acceptance of others
- Make normal or greater than expected developmental progress
- Participate in a program that uses developmentally appropriate practices and activities to prepare children for pre-Kindergarten
- Engage in a classroom with a staff to student ratio of 1:8