

Philosophy and Mission Statement

Harbor Haven provides an opportunity for children with special needs to experience the magic of summer camp. Within that fun and exciting environment our primary purpose is to immerse children in a program that is rich in activities and tasks that develop each one's potential in the areas of: social skills, language/communication, behavior, academic and fine/gross motor skills. We want each child to experience activities where successes are achieved, building into heightened confidence and positive self-esteem.

Improving peer relations and the ability to function within a group are also two of our important goals. We provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment in which each child's needs are attended to and where each one's unique characteristics are not only accepted but embraced.

Campers and staff at Harbor Haven reflect individuals of varying abilities, cultures, genders, races, religions and backgrounds. Working together our team of dedicated professionals and emerging professionals create a community spirit filled with respect, acceptance and dignity for all, thereby setting an example for our campers to emulate. As our campers return to their home and school worlds, part of our mission is for them to continue the chain of example, and use the benefits of a Harbor Haven summer to move forward in all aspects of their development during the academic year.

Our program is structured, lightly therapeutic, and contains a comprehensive array of activities and learning, requiring participation by all children and staff. We encourage our children to face new challenges each day and give them the support and encouragement needed to meet those challenges. By inviting non-IEP peers to attend alongside our special needs campers, we provide an inclusive environment. We provide appropriate training and ongoing support to our staff.

Our commitment to respectful, positive and effective communication with our campers, staff and parents is a way of ensuring that we all have the best interests of our campers at heart.

