

The mission of STEPS Plus is to teach success for life through team work, dignity, trust, respect, and safety.

We, the STEPS Plus staff, believe that students with severe disabilities who present difficult and challenging behaviors:

Have the right to...

- Be educated not ignored
- Be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion
- A safe environment
- Opportunities to learn, grow, and achieve
- Be independent and self sufficient
- A life of purpose
- Enjoy life
- Successful exit strategies

Communicate through behaviors which...

- Are attempts to understand and manage their world
- Are not manipulative
- Reflect their mental and emotional capacities
- May not reflect an understanding of cause and effect
- Can be changed with communication strategies that work for them

Learn best when taught...

- In an environment that is safe, respectful, and trusting
- With consideration of sensory and environmental factors
- Skills to self regulate and manage their behaviors in a positive way
- Functional routines and strategies for daily living
- Using a positive, strength-based approach
- Consistently

Need educators who...

- Have passion and compassion for working with children with disabilities
- Meet students where they are
- Do not take their behavior personally
- Can “start over” many times daily
- Exhibit an advanced level of team work
- Work in partnership with families
- Interface with medical personnel
- Meet the challenges of the “unexpected”
- Infuse their work with fun and laughter