

## SNAPS Overview

The SNAPS program is designed to supplement the LWSD pre-school program and better meet the needs of students with autism and their families. SNAPS is modeled after the University of Washington's Project DATA; a program designed to meet the unique needs of students with autism by blending evidence-based early childhood, early childhood special education, and behavioral approaches to educate and support children with autism and their families. It is an intensive, early intervention program that involves extensive evaluation, planning, and progress monitoring to help better prepare children for kindergarten entry.



## SNAPS Locations:

Dickinson Preschool  
Kamiakin Jr High Preschool  
Juanita El Preschool

For further information regarding the SNAPS program, please contact the SNAPS Coordinator Staci Allen at [sallen@lwsd.org](mailto:sallen@lwsd.org).

Lake Washington  
School District

# SNAPS



Intensive Instruction Program

Early Childhood  
Special Education

# What is SNAPS?

SNAPS (Student's Needing Autism Programming Support) is a special education program serving eligible preschool students aged 3–5 with a primary diagnosis of autism.

This program is defined by a low student to instructor ratio, integrating peer pairings for social learning while providing 20+ hours a week of individualized intensive instruction.

The SNAPS classroom is a highly structured environment resulting in a predictable daily routine with individualized learning objectives emphasizing functional communication, social interactions, self-management, play skills, imitation, engagement, functional behavior, and generalization of learned skills.

Instruction is delivered using a combination of evidence-based practices including discrete teaching, naturalistic teaching procedures, and structured teaching approaches.

## *Is my child eligible for SNAPS?*

### Steps to Placement In SNAPS for Students with ASD...

1. Student is seen by the evaluation team and standard assessments completed to address current levels.
2. Student placement in a Learning Center class or Ready Start preschool class. During the first 4 to 6 weeks after placement, the SNAPS Coordinator will come out to observe your child and will call you to discuss the observation.
3. The IEP Team will make a recommendation; (consisting of the parents, SNAPS coordinator and special education teacher) regarding level of support needed and whether or not a child will benefit from the SNAPS program.
4. Determination of placement will consider whether or not the child is able to access all aspects of the preschool program and the level of support that is needed for that child to be successful accessing the regular curriculum.
5. Student's needing instruction specific to social skills may be eligible for the SNAPS Social Skills Group. This group will meet on Wednesdays. Lessons and activities will promote the following skills: conversational play, friendship management, self-regulation, conflict management, and social knowledge needed to interpret social cues, and then understanding of emotions and empathy.

