

# Special Start

2020-2021



# Who we are

- Special Start is a preschool program of the Cambridge Public Schools, where students with disabilities and their non-disabled peers learn alongside one another.
- Special Start provides high-quality play-based classroom experiences to three- and four-year olds, with integrated supports and specially designed instruction so that all children can learn together.

# Our classrooms and teachers are

Engaging

Play-based

Meet every child where they are

Supportive

Best Practices

Child-Centered



# Classrooms are located



Baldwin



Graham  
& Parks



Tobin



Peabody



Morse



Kennedy  
Longfellow



Cambridgeport



# By the numbers:

16 classrooms

213 students

16 Classroom Teachers

39 paraprofessionals

Related services teams  
(OT, PT, Speech & Language)

2 Lead Teachers

4 Psychologists

1 Coordinator

1 Behavior Specialist

1 Clerk Specialist

# What Our Day

## Looks Like



# We might transform the house area into

- A store
- A fire station
- An airplane
- A train station
- Under the sea
- A campsite
- A restaurant
- The T
- An animal hospital



# We Might Play with

Blocks

Legos

Water table

Kinetic sand

Play dough

Magna-tiles

Shaving cream

Letter blocks

Puzzles

Trains

Cars

Farms

Babies

Stuffed animals

Pots and pans

Paint

Musical  
instruments





# We might investigate

Leaves, sticks, and rocks we find outside

How long does it take for a pumpkin to rot

How long does it take for snow and ice to melt

How do shadows work

How to make slime





# Read and Write

Stories and poetry

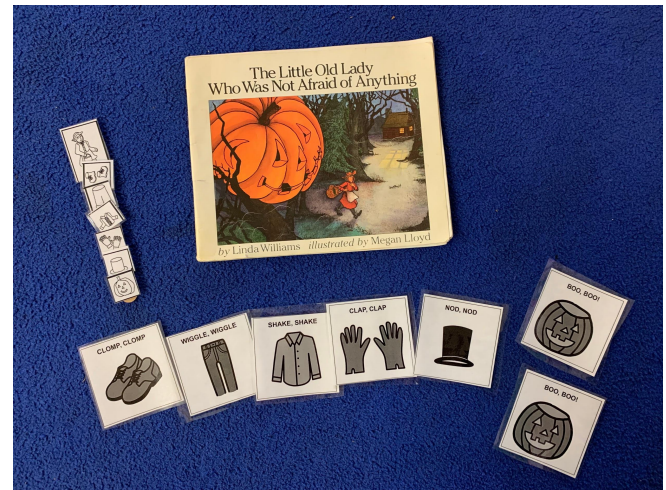
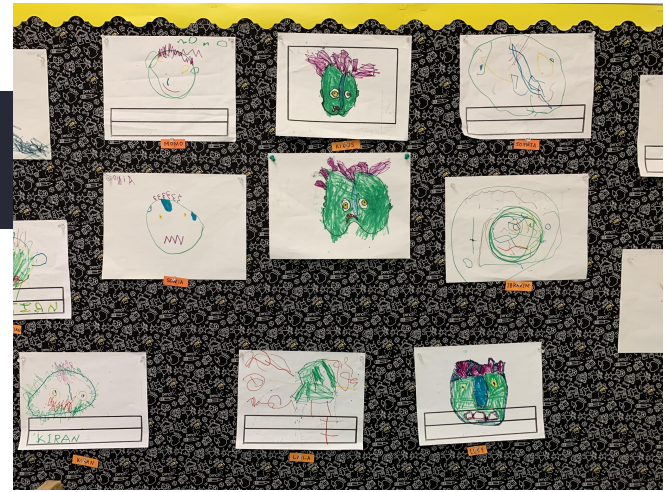
Create our own books

Environmental print like signs and labels

Our Names!

Weekend journals

Morning message



# Together

Eat snacks

Play outside

Have a dance party

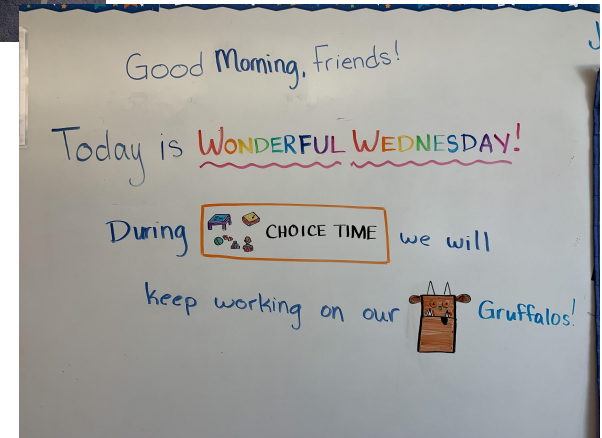
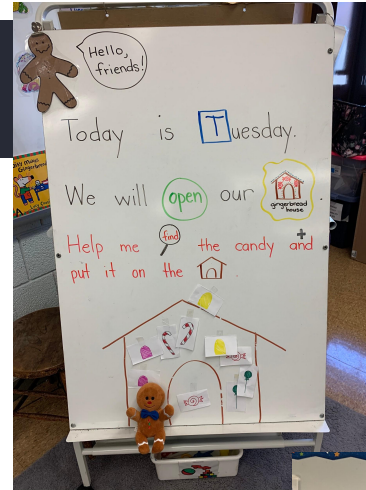
Ask a friend to play

Cooperate and share

Take a walk in the neighborhood

Solve a problem with a friend

Make a plan to play a game







# Thank you & Welcome to Special Start

**Any questions?**

Please contact Mia Ferej:

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For more information, please visit  
us at [bit.ly/cps\\_specialstart](https://bit.ly/cps_specialstart)