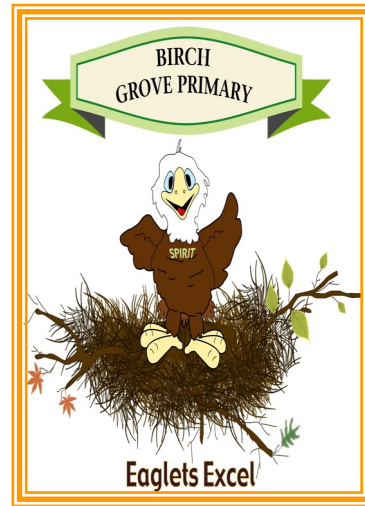


B.E.A.R.S.

The B.E.A.R.S. program is available to students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade at Birch Grove Primary School through a grant from the State of Connecticut's Department of Education.



Birch Grove Primary School

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Birch Grove Primary School

The B.E.A.R.S. Program

**Beary
Excellent
Awesome
Remarkable Self!**





B.E.A.R.S. Beary Excellent Awesome Remarkable Self!

What B.E.A.R.S. is all about:

It is a non-instructional, general education program that seeks to promote a positive adjustment in primary grade children's school experiences. It is a school-based program, which detects and prevents school adjustment problems for students in kindergarten through grade three. It provides attention and extra support to youngsters who are having minimal to moderate difficulties adjusting to school life.

What B.E.A.R.S. is Not:

B.E.A.R.S. is not special education. B.E.A.R.S. is not academic tutoring. It is not counseling for children with identified emotional problems. Other programs exist to address these issues.

How are children selected for the program?

After the teacher gets to know his/her students at the beginning of the school year, a systematic identification process begins. Through the use of behavior-rating scales and conferences with school personnel, a decision is made as to whether or not a particular child could benefit from the program. The child's parents are then contacted for their input and permission for their child's participation.

How does the program work?

After permission is granted, the Child Associate and the child's teacher establish goals for each child, with input from parents and other concerned school personnel. The specific goals evolve from the areas in which the child is perceived to be having difficulties. The Child Associate maintains contact with the child's parents and teacher and modifies the goals as necessary. Children are typically seen once a week for 12-15 sessions.

What is a Child Associate?

A Child Associate is a specially trained, non-judgmental adult chosen because she/he is a warm, responsible, caring person with proven ability to relate well with children. Lynne Carnemolla is the Child Associate at Birch Grove. Primary Mrs. Carnemolla supervises activities designed to meet each child's individual needs in a warm and nurturing manner.

The Child Associate will receive, at minimum, one hour of direct supervision per week, at a designated, set-aside time, from Patty Mace, School Psychologist. This supervisory time is used for joint planning of individual student goals and activities, review of student progress, problem-solving, informal education on relevant topics, general program planning and implementation, etc. In addition, Mrs. Mace is available for consultation on an as needed basis.

What do children do at B.E.A.R.S.?

Children are seen during school hours, usually once a week, for 30 minutes. Children may be seen individually or in a group, whichever is considered appropriate for their goals. The sessions are generally non-directive, but usually include creative projects, cooperative activities, board games, puppet play, dramatic play, and of course, conversation. All of the activities are designed to promote social development, self-esteem, and adjustment to school.

What role do parents play?

Parents are a valuable part of our program. All parents are initially contacted to give permission to include their child in the program. They are invited to participate in progress monitoring and to share their input for program evaluation. Parent involvement is welcomed and encouraged.

