

## READI Program

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**Northside**  
Independent School District



# READI Program

*Reaching Early Autism with  
Diagnostic Intervention*

# Reaching Early Autism with Diagnostic Intervention

## What is the READI Program?

The READI Program is a 45-day intense diagnostic program that implements strategies that are considered to be best practice. This enables the staff to determine the most effective techniques to use with each student. The program's main focus is to improve behavior, address sensory or social processing needs, and implement a functional communication system. At the end of the 45-day placement, students are transitioned to the most appropriate special education setting.

The READI Program provides a highly structured and visually-based classroom with a low staff-to-student ratio (3:5). The program teaches students the skills they need to be ready to learn in their next classroom setting.

## Program Benefits

Students have the opportunity to:

- Learn to participate in group activities
- Learn to use a daily schedule to transition from one activity to another
- Learn to communicate their wants and needs
- Generalize skills from school to home
- Have a behavior plan designed and implemented to meet individual behavior needs
- Interact with typical peers through school-wide activities as well as specifically scheduled activities
- Transition to their next classroom setting with skills they need to be successful

## Who can attend the READI Program?

The READI Program is for children in the Northside Independent School District who are 3 or 4 years of age with an initial eligibility of autism (falling in the moderate to severe range) and/or have turned 3 but further assessment and diagnostic intervention is needed to determine the severity of autism. Children are recommended to the program by a NISD assessment team, and placement decisions are made through the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) process.

## Program Components

- The READI class meets from 7:45-10:40 a.m. and follows the NISD school calendar
- Two hours of individual parent training are provided by the READI Program
- Small staff-to-student ratio
- Staff comprised of one special education teacher and two instructional assistants
- Speech therapy services as determined by the ARD
- Occupational therapy services as determined by the ARD
- Special needs transportation services as determined by the ARD

