



## What would you do if your child couldn't learn?

This was the dilemma faced by The Wolf School founders—when despite best efforts at an outstanding private school and significant tutorial and therapeutic interventions—their son was failing.

Turning to experts in education, occupational therapy, and speech pathology, a founding board was created. This visionary group became convinced that other children with complex learning profiles could benefit from an alternative educational setting. A new educational model was designed to meet their academic, social, and therapeutic needs, and in 1999, The Wolf School opened its doors to three students in a single classroom. The students' success led to Wolf's extraordinary growth, confirming that the school fills a previously unmet need in the educational community.

Now located in its permanent home in East Providence, Wolf educates up to 50 children a year in grades 1-8 from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

*"Placing our son at The Wolf School was an excruciating decision, presenting enormous financial ramifications for our family and our future. And it has changed our lives. It provided him with what he so desperately needs and it provided us with the miracle of hope." — A Wolf School parent*

- ▶ *Imagine people talking to you but not being able to understand what they are saying.*
- ▶ *Imagine not having a sense of your body in space, and constantly bumping into things.*
- ▶ *Imagine being 8 years old and never invited to a birthday party.*

## Understanding our students

Wolf school students possess strong creative skills and exhibit humor, passion, and persistence. Although bright and inquisitive, they have a different way of learning.

Wolf students have difficulty communicating, following directions, participating in a group, problem solving, and making friends.

Most Wolf students have experienced years of school failure causing feelings of frustration, anxiety, disappointment, and confusion. If not addressed, over time, this can lead to negative feelings about school, low self-esteem, and isolation.



## Why Wolf works

### **Small school... big results**

Picture yourself waking up each morning knowing that almost everything you are expected to do that day will bring frustration or failure. Prior to coming to Wolf, this is exactly how our students experienced school. After Wolf, it is a different story.

### **The Wolf School is succeeding with complex learners**

While Wolf students have good academic and intellectual potential, they experience enormous difficulty progressing in a traditional classroom due to a trilogy of learning difficulties that includes:

- language processing and production challenges
- significant sensory integration problems
- ineffective social communication

To address these multiple barriers to learning, The Wolf School created an "immersion model" whereby therapeutic support is incorporated into the entire curriculum throughout the day.

The immersion model utilizes a team of teachers, occupational therapists, and speech pathologists in each classroom to ensure lessons integrate language, sensory, and social skills. Working in small classrooms (6-10 children, with a faculty/student ratio of 1:4 or smaller) staff continually respond to each child's instructional needs. Using the collective expertise of our professional team, therapeutic supports are seamlessly woven into learning. This unique educational approach allows Wolf students to be ready to listen, attend to task, and be ready to learn.

*"I hear him talking about his future in a different way—the world is opening up to him, he now believes there are possibilities." — A Wolf School parent*

## Contact The Wolf School

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