

WELCOME TO RISE LEARNING CENTER

MOVE PROGRAM

Mobility Opportunities via Education (MOVE), was started in 1984 in California by Linda Bidabe, a teacher, and has since blossomed into an internationally known curriculum for students with delayed motor skills and often concurrent delayed cognitive development. MOVE focuses on teaching skills that are functional, not based on a developmental model. Students with severe physical limitations are better served by learning to stand and bear weight for functional activities (like washing hands or brushing teeth) than they would to learn to inspect their fingers. Often students in other types of classrooms are programmed according to a developmental sequence instead of focusing on a useful skill. The MOVE curriculum points out that students with severe disabilities may take thousands of repetitions to learn a skill; thus the skills selected and taught for several years need to be functional and meaningful to the student.

The RISE Learning Center (RLC) is lucky enough to have two teachers who are certified MOVE International Trainers and who have excelled at the implementation of the curriculum. Professional support staff as well as Instructional Aides all complete the MOVE Basic Provider Courses as they work with the RLC students. The RLC also hosts training on MOVE for teachers in our member districts. We maintain high levels of staffing in order to correctly and safely implement the MOVE curriculum.

The MOVE curriculum requires significant space and equipment in order to be correctly implemented. Our students who require devices for mobility often have three different devices:

1. one for rapid movement with staff assistance
2. one for attaining eye level attitude with peers
3. one for practicing mobility

Further, as our MOVE students often need assistance in the restroom, therefore our restrooms are complete with equipment to make them a safe, comfortable training environment. Additionally, our pool also has a transfer lift that allows our MOVE students to engage in swimming accompanied by a high ratio of caring staff and adaptive equipment.

Our MOVE program also focuses on communication. First, our staff continue to make conversation with the students about all the events or topics in the classroom. Often people stop talking to students with severe disabilities, confusing the lack of speech with a lack of understanding of other person's speech. We also teach the MOVE students to use assistive technology in order to communicate back to adults and peers. We have peers from other classrooms work as peer buddies in our physical education class to engender more opportunities for communication.

Our MOVE teachers collaborate with the physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech language therapist, school nurse and special area teachers to work on student goals throughout students' school day instead of the each service area working on separate goals. The MOVE team supports students to be the most independent they can be in their school environment.

M.O.V.E. Model Site

The RISE Learning Center (RLC) has been named a M.O.V.E. Model Site by MOVE International. MOVE Model Sites are independent facilities (often school sites but can be institutional care, nursing homes, rehabilitation and developmental centers, and adult day programs) where MOVE concepts and techniques are facilitated by a MOVE International Trainer. MOVE Model Sites are required to meet set criteria from MOVE International that display a consistent and high level of implementation of the MOVE curriculum. MOVE International staff visit Model Sites triennially to review their implementation of the MOVE Curriculum. The RISE Learning Center became a MOVE Model Site in 2001 and has kept Model Site status since that time. RLC is one of only 30 MOVE Model Sites in the world.