

For Immediate Release

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Back to School: UCP of NYC Brooklyn Offers Integrated and Special Needs Preschool Programs with Multiple Supports

New York, NY, September 7, 2016— The United Cerebral Palsy of New York City (UCP of NYC) Brooklyn Preschool will open its doors to students on September 8, 2016. This year, Brooklyn Preschool has ten classes that many special supports in terms of staff, technologies and recreational facilities. Nine of Brooklyn's preschool classes have ratios of 12:1:3 (12 students, 1 head teacher, 3 assistant teachers). One class is an integrated class where eight (8) students have IEPs and seven (7) students are through the Universal Pre-K program, a free NY State program for typically developing children that are four years of age. The school runs from 8 am to 2 pm.

Brooklyn's UPK program school offers many services, including two nurses and one School Psychologist. For students with an IEP, related services are provided, including Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Physical Therapy (as determined by the IEP). The school has invested in the latest technologies – which is not typical of most UPK programs – and students work on both i-pads and Smart Boards in classrooms to improve their critical thinking skills. In Brooklyn, students also have an opportunity for much-needed recreation as the school offers a swimming pool and employs a gym teacher.

Brooklyn's UPK program and Preschool have a very diverse ethnic population, representing students from many cultures in the surrounding neighborhoods. The program's teachers and therapists also come from many different ethnic backgrounds.

"Integrated Pre-K classroom setting is a wonderful model and has proven to be beneficial to both typically developing children and children with special needs. Children have been shown to gain greater mastery of material when teaching peers. There are many social-emotional benefits in the integrated classroom setting for all kids. Being in a classroom with children who have special needs leads children to be more compassionate and empathetic in the long run," said Nicole Levine, Director of the Brooklyn Preschool Program.

"The functioning level and disabilities of the children who attend our school also vary. Our school accepts medically fragile children and is able to get a one to one nurse for those students that meet that criteria. We work with a monthly curriculum and will typically do a special, school-wide event once a month that

corresponds to the theme. Most of these seats are currently filled,” Ms. Levine added.

Preschool Program at UCP of NYC anticipates many eager students at the beginning of this coming school year!

About United Cerebral Palsy of New York City

United Cerebral Palsy of New York City, Inc. (UCP of NYC) is the leading nonprofit agency in New York City providing direct services, technology and advocacy to children and adults with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. UCP of NYC offers a breadth of more than 85 comprehensive programs including medical, clinical, educational, technological, residential and rehabilitative services to over 18,000 New York City residents and families annually. Our services are delivered by a staff of more than 3,000 trained and dedicated individuals, including a number of employees who have disabilities themselves. The mission of United Cerebral Palsy of New York City is to create opportunities for people with disabilities to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

For more information about our programs and services, please visit: www.ucpnyc.org.