



# Psychology at the Baltimore Lab School



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## Introduction

This poster will discuss the support system established within a K-12 school that educates children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Top: Examples of artwork created by students including multimedia self-portraits and stained glass window pieces; Bottom: Baltimore Laboratory School entrance sign displaying a paintbrush and paint palette to symbolize the use of art in education.

## Activities:

During my time at the Lab school, I shadowed and participated in group therapy sessions with children in order to help children make progress toward their personal behavioral and emotional goals. I also spent time in the classroom to offer students guidance in their understanding of math and science. Lastly I interacted with and observed the school psychologist's interventions in the classroom.

## Methods:

This school emphasized learning behavioral skills through the use of animals. By observing the reactions of animals, students are able to exercise patience, find calm, and even improve they mood.



Left: Walter, the site therapy rabbit, belonging to the school counselor; Right: Students interacting with a snake and other animals at a class field trip.

## Site Information:

Baltimore Laboratory School

2220 St Paul St, Baltimore MD 21204

Christine Burchett

Goal: help student meet academic and behavioral goals while acknowledging their intellectual and developmental differences. The Lab school progresses toward these goals through the use of art and creativity

## Issues Confronting Site:

One struggle of this site is the challenge of getting state approval for the enrollment of students. Students must prove through evaluations that they are in need of extra support. It is especially challenging for girls to receive approval because they are more likely to mask symptoms



## Discussion:

Students at the Baltimore Laboratory school are educated in classrooms with especially small classrooms and high teacher to student ratios. This enables them to receive the extra attention that they may need to learn.

This image shows a 1st grade math classroom that I spent time in. I was able to help these students solve problems and expand their understanding of math.

## Future Work:

This project confirmed my interest in working with children in my future. I currently teach students at Impulse City Arts and Recreation Center while here at College Park. In the future I hope to become a child therapist after.

Thank you for viewing my poster!

## Acknowledgments:

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