

S.W.I.M.



Students Working in Mini-groups

Haddam Elementary School

What is S.W.I.M.?

- S.W.I.M. is an acronym for Students Working in Mini-Groups
- Haddam Elementary students in first through third grade are divided into small groups with an adult to student ratio of no more than 1:5
- Each group meets weekly for 45 minutes
- Groups change every trimester
- Staffed by reading & math support teachers, school psychologist, Special Education teachers, Speech Pathologist, Spanish teacher, music teacher & LEAP teacher

Why S.W.I.M.?

Inspired by the presentation of: Addressing Developmental Assets™ (Search Institute)

- **Support**

- **Other Adult Relationships & Caring School Climate**

- Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults
- School provides a caring, encouraging environment

- **Commitment to Learning**

- **School Engagement & Bonding to School**

- Young person is actively engaged in learning
- Young person cares about her or his school

Why S.W.I.M?

- Foster important relationships between students and non-classroom teachers
- Provide time for students to share
- Reduce the amount of time that some students are pulled out from class
- Maximize the impact of trained professionals (more “eyes” watching out for students’ strengths and weaknesses)
- Emphasize that learning can (and should) be fun!!
- Allow for increased common planning time for classroom teachers

What activities are part of S.W.I.M.?

- Reading Support or Enrichment
 - Reading teachers received a teaching grant from the Connecticut Reading Association to develop Reader-Text Connections using children's picture books with their S.W.I.M. groups
- Math Support or Enrichment
- Language Support
- Social Skills/Decision-Making
- Spanish enrichment
- Music—percussion
- Cross-disciplinary projects
- Most S.W.I.M. groups incorporate arts, games, and videos