

# **St. George's Preschool**

**“Learning Through Play”**

## **Handbook**



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Dear Parents,

Welcome! We would like to thank you for choosing St. George's Preschool and ensure you that we have a commitment to all parents and children enrolled at our site. Our commitment is that the children will receive quality care and instruction. We will also build up the children's self-confidence and self-esteem with praise and positive redirections.

It is our goal to provide a variety of exciting, stimulating activities each day so that your child can develop socially, emotionally, physically and mentally to the very best of his/her ability. This handbook has been prepared especially for you, the parent of the child enrolled in our Center. You will find many of our policies and operating procedures explained here. By reading this handbook you will feel more confident in your family's adjustment into our program. We suggest that you keep this handbook for reference throughout the year. Whenever you have questions, please feel free to call or stop by the office. We look forward to working with you and your child.

Thank you,  
The Staff of St. George's Preschool

## **Mission Statement**

We, the Bermuda Government Preschools, in partnership with parents and the community, will diligently provide a developmentally appropriate programme in an inviting, nurturing, stimulating and safe environment which meets the needs of all students.

We are committed to preparing students for primary school as well as for the challenges of a rapidly changing and increasingly complex society.

## **At St. George's Preschool**

We believe that children should be allowed to grow at their own pace and to learn in ways that help them become confident in themselves as learners. Our goal is to provide all of the children with a clean, safe, comfortable, and nurturing environment. Respect toward self, others and the environment will be emphasized. We believe in the value of both structured and non-structured activities. Structured activities will include the use of a preschool curriculum, regular reading times, circle times, arts and crafts, and musical activities. Outdoor play and center times are some of the more flexible activities we have. It is our goal to create an environment and program where the child's natural desire to learn is stimulated through meaningful, appropriate, and playful learning experiences, one that meets the needs of each child as an individual.

## **General Information**

### **School Hours:**

School begins at 8:30am. Please make every effort to have your child arrive on time so that they may get the most out of the preschool day. If your child is ill or not attending, please inform the office by phone or email. Our day ends promptly at 3:00pm.

### **Drop-off and Pick-up:**

Our drive way can get very busy in the mornings and afternoons. We ask that you be as quick as possible in dropping off or collecting your child. You may then proceed directly out of the back gate to make space for other drivers. If you intend to stay a while, we kindly ask that you park on the grass so that you are not preventing other parents a smooth transition.

### **Safety and Security**

The school doors are locked during the day and we request that all visitors inform the Administrator of their presence in the building. Children will be released only to those persons indicated by the guardians of each child. If plans change throughout the day, please call the office to alert us to the changes in pick-up routines

## **HEALTH POLICY**

Children who are ill cannot be appropriately cared for in preschool setting. Parents need to have alternate care available for when this occurs. The following list details some examples:

- Fever; Oral temperature above 101 degrees
- Persistent diarrhea
- Conjunctivitis, commonly referred to as "pink eye"
- Vomiting two or more times in previous 24 hour period
- Symptoms of strep throat or chicken pox
- Head Lice, scabies, or other parasitic infections

Any condition in which the child acts ill and is unable to participate in classroom activities and which compromises the health and safety of others

St George's Preschool will provide a child that has developed symptoms of illness a quiet place to rest that is in view of a childcare provider until the child is removed from the facility. The parent or emergency contact person will be notified of the illness by the child's teacher and must pick the child up within one hour.

### **Administering Medication**

Whenever possible, we ask that all medication be given to children at home. We understand that this is not always possible. If medicine must be administered during Daycare, the following policy applies

Prescription and orally administered over-the-counter medication may be administered only upon written permission of the parent and written instructions from a health care provider stating that the provider may administer such medication or prescription.

## **Curriculum**

St. George's Preschool uses and follows the principles of the Creative Curriculum for Preschool provided by Teaching Strategies Gold.

Teaching Strategies Gold states that,

“Our supportive solutions are used by early childhood educators across the country, helping them to offer content-rich, developmentally appropriate programs that support active learning and promote children's progress in all developmental areas.”

The Areas of development include:

- ♦ Socio-Emotional
- ♦ Physical
- ♦ Language
- ♦ Cognitive
- ♦ Math
- ♦ Science and Technology
- ♦ Social Studies
- ♦ The Arts

### **Observation Based Assessment**

Observation based assessment simply means that we will continually observe your child in everyday activities, take notes, pictures, videos and samples to document our observations and use the information to plan for your child's individual learning needs.

For more information about Teaching Strategies Gold please visit:

**TeachingStrategies.com**

## **Additional Services**

### **Learning Support**

Assesses and supports student with identified learning challenges in meeting goals set by I.E.P.—Individualized Educational Plan.

### **Speech Language Therapist**

Assesses and supports students with identified challenges in the area of speech and/or language acquisition.

### **Occupational Therapist**

Assesses and supports students with identified challenges in the area small motor skills.

### **Physiotherapist**

Assesses and supports students with identified challenges in the area gross or large muscle and motor development.

### **Educational Therapist**

Assesses and supports student with identified behavioural challenges.

### **Counselling**

Our school is serviced by the school counsellor once a week. The counsellor provides a list of services that include group classes as well as individual sessions.

All of the support services are offered at the school site on a weekly basis. Students are assessed upon entry and may be referred by the teacher or parent for further assessment in areas of concern. Parents will be informed and may be asked to provide a signature to give consent for further support services.

## Sample Daily Schedule

Time	Activity
8:30-8:45	Arrival and Circle / Read Aloud
8:45 – 10:00	Inquiry / Centers
10:00-10:15	Fruit
10:15-11:30	Outdoor Inquiry/Play and Clean-up
11:30 – 12:00	Lunch
12:00 – 1:00	Inquiry/Play Block and Circle
1:00 – 2:00	Rest
2:00-3:00	Al's Pals and Outdoor Inquiry/Play
3:00	Dismissal

## Play / Inquiry Centers

Centers - Learning centers have activities that are suggested either by written or verbal cues from the teacher or can be developed daily by the children. Materials and equipment in each area are displayed in a manner that promotes individual and independent play. Often, problems are presented for children to solve for creative and cooperative problem solving sessions. Centers include but are not limited to:

Literacy

Math

Art

Large Motor

Dramatic Play

Computer

Manipulative Play

Science

Blocks



## Dress Code

Please dress your child in comfortable clothing that is easy for him / her to manage without assistance when using the toilet. We also suggest that students wear sneakers with Velcro as they are the best footwear for their active experiences here at school. Please note we strongly discourage flip flops and jewelry.

A change of clothing is necessary for toileting accidents as well as exciting surprises at water play or on the playground. These clothing sets should include underwear and socks and can be placed in a labeled Zip-lock bag to remain at school. We will endeavor to send them home as the seasons change in order for you to change them to suit the weather.

## Lunch and Snacks

Please send a healthy lunch, that includes fresh fruit (no canned fruits in syrup or fruit roll-ups.) While we are happy to heat your child's lunch, in the essence of time, it may be best to send lunch in a thermos in order to keep warm.

St. George's Preschool has a **water only** policy. You may want to send an extra water bottle for outdoor play. We also encourage Trash-free lunches. These should include a fresh cloth napkin to lay out as a placemat and for cleaning up their faces daily.

## **Other Helpful Info**

### **Rest time**

In all Government preschools students are expected to observe a rest period. Here, the students rest for one hour. We provide cots for each child and ask that you send in a towel on Mondays to be used for the week. This will be sent home on Fridays for laundering.

### **School Shirts**

St. George's Preschool shirts are sold by the school. Please see the administrator for order forms. Students may wear their school shirts each Friday and are expected to wear them for all school outings.

Please ensure that you label all items with your child's name for ease of recognition.

### **Nightly Reading**

We encourage you to devote time each day to reading aloud to your child. In September, your child will receive a Reading Log that will be sent home each night with a reader. Please record the book, make a comment and initial your entry each night.

Awards are presented at intervals of 25 and 50 books read.

### **Notes and Newsletters**

Please read all notices and newsletters that come home in your child's bag. We will make every effort not to bombard you with notices so be assured that if we do send them they will hold important information for your review.

## **Special Events**

### **Walk-a-thon**

In the fall term, the preschool holds a Walk-a-thon to help raise funds for learning materials as school. Notes will be sent home including pledge sheets to help you raise money for this purpose.

### **Christmas Production**

A short Christmas Production may be held in celebration of this festive season.

### **Agricultural Exhibition**

Each year our school enters at least one school prepared exhibit. The Exhibition is held in April and information will be sent home in a timely manner to encourage as much participation as possible.

### **School Leaving Ceremony**

The School leaving Ceremony is held in June and will be our final celebration for the year.

## **School Motto**

**“Learning Through Play”**

## **School Song**

**St. George's Preschool's lots of fun,  
Lots of fun for everyone.  
We read, we count, we work, we play,  
We learn something new each day.  
St. Geroge's Preschool's lots of fun,  
We want to tell everyone!**

## **Lunch Prayer**

**-  
God we thank you, God we thank you,  
For our food, for our food,  
We are very thankful, we are very thankful,  
God is god, God is good,  
Amen!**