

Program Statement: St. David's Co-operative Nursery School will provide an environment in which parents and teachers work together to provide quality care and early childhood education. The needs, rights and concerns of the children, parents and teachers will be given equal emphasis to create an atmosphere conducive to learning and growing. We are an inclusive school where all children belong and we celebrate every child's uniqueness and similarities.

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School believes that every child and family has a right to a quality early years education and experience.

In co-operation with our members, we will provide a caring and nurturing environment for hands-on "learning through play" experiences that will develop a future generation of self-confident life-long learners.

We will provide the opportunity for professionally programmed and supervised play, with a variety of developmentally and diverse inclusive experiences, to establish a positive sense of self in our children. St. David's Co-operative Nursery School aims to develop independent children capable of solving their own problems, and making their own choices.

Our belief is that children that are more involved in their learning get the message that their ideas are important and that almost anything is possible, if you try. The learning is meaningful and relevant to the children's lives.

Never forgetting that play is children's work and children learn through play, our teachers provide learning objectives in the concrete activities that enable the children to learn through their play. With this philosophy, the preschool experience will allow children to reach their full potential.

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School as a licensed child care operator, meets and exceeds all health and safety requirements of the Ministry of Education and local government bylaws. Information is posted outside our program rooms on our "Parent Communication" boards and others (for example the Anaphylaxis Policy) are provided in the Parent Handbook. You can also speak to our program staff at any time to view our complete health and safety policies and protocols.

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School understands that the first step in establishing and nurturing health, safety and wellbeing for children in our programs is through the connections they make with the program staff, volunteers and students on placements.

Some other program-specific ways in which we promote the health, safety, nutrition and well being of the children are:

- the child will have their medical information up to date and on file, including immunization or Exemptions
- a policy is in place for health regulations which is reviewed by each parent
- inspections of the environment will be carried out routinely to ensure child safety, for example playground inspections
- a snack will be provided by the school which will contain two food groups and will be posted for parents

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School will support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents, child care providers and staff by:

- a variety of activities to provide an opportunity for children to interact and co-operate with peers
- an information board posted for parents and child care providers to view
- monthly newsletters sent out for upcoming events and information
- quarterly parent meetings to share information and concerns with staff and board
- staff is always available for parent's concerns and input

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School will encourage children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate by:

- teaching the child how to handle situations which are difficult for them, by taking turns, sharing and inviting peers to come and play. By encouraging them to come up with ideas and solutions to problems that arise
- every child is entitled to have the opportunity to develop personal responsibility and social skills, to learn to problem-solve and to learn about diversity and inclusion
- we are committed to working collaboratively with all of our community partners as we work together on the mutual goal of providing the best possible child care service to families
- establish programming strategies to foster an inclusive learning environment in which every child can participate
- view the diversity of children and families as an asset, and plan programs to reflect differences and enrich the environment

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School will foster the children's exploration, play and inquiry by:

- every child is a capable communicator who expresses himself or herself in many ways
- drama, music, dance and visual arts
- physical and language literacy

- nature, science, and technology (I-pads and computers)
- construction and design
- each child will learn and develop at their own pace

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School will provide child-initiated and adult supported experiences through:

- a variety of cognitive toys, science activities, books and sensory experiences will help with exploration to foster the child's imagination and adult supported experiences
- Families form the foundation for a child's early development. Families know their children best, and are the first and most powerful influence on learning and development
- every child is entitled to have the opportunity to develop personal responsibility and social skills, to learn to problem-solve and to learn about diversity and inclusion
- Promoting a sense of belonging for children and their families in our programs by creating positive interactions and collaboration of families. We understand that relationships of trust are the basis for learning and co-operation

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School incorporates indoor and outdoor play. In addition to active play we build in rest and quiet time and will give consideration to the individual needs of the children receiving care by:

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- daily opportunity for physical indoor and outdoor play including, balance beam, riders, tricycles, jumping mats, sandbox, large outdoor toys, nature walks and exploration of rocks, bird's nests and trees
- based on weather, a daily decision will be made on which active space will be used
- quiet time with songs and stories

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School fosters the engagement and ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children through:

- Involving parents and other important adults in various events and activities at our programs through regularly scheduled parent volunteer days. This connects them to their children's early development, and enhances the child's learning
- The needs of each child are considered in the context of their family composition, values, culture, and language. This approach enriches relationships between early childhood settings and families

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School involves local community partners and allows them to support the children, their families and staff by:

- Providing learning opportunities and practical work experience, in the areas of programming to members of the community through the recruitment, placement, training for students on placement.
- parent volunteers and students on placement augment the high-quality care and individual attention given to the children in the programs
- during the year parents are invited on trips
- visits from community helpers, police, firefighters

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School is committed to support staff or others who interact with children at the school in relation to continuous professional learning by:

- Hiring qualified E.C.E. persons who belong to The College of Early Childhood Educators and fairly compensating staff.
- To hire staff who have a positive and sensitive attitude towards children. Our non-discriminatory hiring practices provide individuals of all backgrounds the opportunity for employment. We believe that everyone has worth and value, and all staff are entitled to be respected, supported and treated fairly
- we provide additional services through Welland Preschool Services, Niagara Region Children's Services

St. David's Co-operative Nursery School documents and reviews the impact of the strategies set out above on the children and their families through:

- Strategies used to help understand the child's development and implementation of the program to meet their needs
- a reflection of the program statement is to help ensure the development of the whole child
- a way to reflect on developmental growth over a period of time
- a process for program staff to co-plan with children about learning
- a dialogue with families about children's experience and an invitation for parents to add their own documentation about their children's learning
- a self-reflection opportunity for program staff, as they participate in continuous professional learning