



SAINT THERESE *Nursery School*

Parent Handbook

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Dear Family,

Welcome to St. Therese Nursery School! We pray that this handbook will provide you with a thorough background of our school community as well as a reference. Our staff and families have assisted in the growth of our school over the last twenty years. Our mission of Learning is a journey, Not a destination truly encompasses our beliefs as a school community. Nursery school is the first of many stops on your child's learning journey. That journey includes spiritual, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth. We are here as early childhood educators to guide both you and your child on this learning journey! Keep in mind that nursery school is many times a child's first exposure to a group of people outside of their family. Providing a safe and nurturing environment that welcomes children and assists them in this transition is why we are here!

St. Therese Nursery School was established on October 30, 2000. We began with two classrooms, thirty students and four staff members. We now have almost 100 students, three classrooms, all day threes and fours, and a staff of ten! We have evolved over the past twenty years to maintain the balance of socialization as well as academic skills. Over the past twenty years academics have become more of a focus in early childhood as we prepare students for kindergarten where goals and objectives are higher that they were ever before. Finding a balance in how to integrate these academic skills in a developmentally appropriate manner is something our staff successfully achieves through professional development as well as their cohesiveness as a team of professionals. Most importantly, we are hear to develop kind and giving children that are accepting to everyone they encounter. Nursery school is ultimately about socialization and setting the tone for the child's entire educational and life experience.

With our mission as our driving force, we look forward to serving both you and your family on this first stop in your child's learning journey! We pray that together we can provide the unique experience that each child needs to grow into an independent learner. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

In God's Peace,

Michele Adinolfi
Director



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SAINT THERESE
Nursery School

Assessment

&

Conferences



St. Therese Nursery School

Assessment

Assessment is an ongoing process throughout the school year. The teachers utilize the State of Connecticut Preschool Framework to establish lesson plans that are cyclical in nature and introduce and revisit standards at a consistent basis. Each child has an individual portfolio that includes and is not limited to work samples, checklists, and anecdotal notes. As the year progresses and the teacher complete a baseline assessment on each child, individual goals are established and integrated into the daily lesson plans. Areas that require further exposure are revisited in either a small group or one on one with the teacher. Assessment tools include observational notes, checklists, examples of work and formal assessment tools such as the corresponding standard based Office of Early Learning Developmental Standards. An explanation the assessment follows this introduction. Assessments occur in November and late spring.

If at any point during the year the teacher feels that your is in need of further evaluation by your pediatrician or local school district, a conference will be held with the teacher, parents, and Director. It is our desire to meet the needs of every child. Therefore, an evaluation by a specialist may be needed to assist the child on their developmental journey.

Parent input is critical to your child's teacher understanding each individual child. Prior to beginning school, you will receive a "Getting to Know You" questionnaire to be completed and returned to your child's teacher. This allows the teacher to have some background knowledge on your child's interests, family experiences, and any previous school or daycare experiences. A copy of the "Getting to Know You" follows this introduction.



Getting to Know Your Child Survey

Dear Families,

In an effort to continue our learning journey, we are asking you to complete this survey. This is a wonderful opportunity to establish our school to home connection. Please bring this to Meet & Greet and give to your child's teacher.

Miss Michele

Child's Name: _____

Child prefers to be called (nickname): _____

Name of parents or guardians: _____

Please list everyone living in your household (pets too!)

My Child's Special Interests:

Please list any special concerns you have regarding your child:

Anything else I should know about our child to help make this school year most successful:

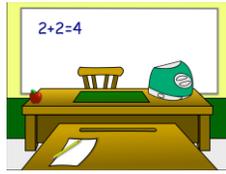
Has your child had adverse reaction?: _____

Does your child nap? _____

Has your child ever been in an early childhood center? _____

At what age was your child potty trained? _____

Thank you for your time! We look forward to sharing your learning journey!



St. Therese Nursery School

Conferences

A parent or teacher may request a conference at any time throughout the school year. Conferences may be held in person or via telephone. Formal conferences occur following each of the assessments. Parents will receive an email from Sign Up Genius, an online sign up format to choose a slot for conference. This program will also remind you of your conference time two days prior. At your child's conference you will complete individual goals agreed upon with your child's teacher on a "Family Conference" form.

Parents will receive feedback regarding their child's daily progress at dismissal. This is a brief interaction between teacher and parent to solidify the home-school connection. In order to respect confidentiality of each family, if there is an area that the teacher would like to discuss with a parent, they may inform you that they will give you a phone call later that day. If for some reason another family member such as a grandparent or care provider is picking up a child, the teacher will refrain from giving personal feedback unless requested to do so by the parent.