

Welcome to
Stepping Stones International Preschool!



Parents Handbook



Contents

1) About Stepping Stones International Pre-School

- Objectives and our environment
- How we learn
- The Curriculum
- Our different classes
- Leave of absence

2) Starting School

- Help preparing your child for pre-school
- Children starting later in the year
- Moving up classes

3) Life at Stepping Stones

- Opening hours
- Arrival and departure
- Late pick up
- Authorisation for pick up
- How our days are structured
 - quiet/nap times, outdoor play, lunch & snack

- Clothing
- Toys
- Managing children's behaviour

4) Communication with Parents

- Parental involvement
- Reports and parent meetings
- Parents Committee
- Home/school communication

5) Health and Safety

- Creating a safe environment
- Illness
- Medication
- Injuries
- Toilet training
- Sun safety

6) Activities and Events

- Field trips
- Cultural celebrations
- Social events
- Birthday celebrations

7) Reference and forms

- Practical check list of items required for your child
- Additional Costs
- Settling In information
- Volunteering for Parents Committee
- Volunteering to share celebrations

About Stepping Stones International Pre-School

Objectives and our environment

Our goal at Stepping Stones is to have all the children enjoying a fun day in a safe, warm, and stimulating environment. We want your child to feel like their preschool is their second home. We will provide them with lots of love and attention along with lots of fun daily activities to help them learn and grow. We hope to teach the children to respect themselves and each other, building their knowledge, skills and self-esteem through a diverse, child-centred curriculum, as well as supporting those children who are learning English as an additional language. We provide a daily structured program with an emphasis on play and creativity.

Our preschool program is child-centred and flexible, catering to the individual needs and interests of our children, taking ideas from various well-established early childhood programmes including the Foundation Stage of the English National Curriculum, as well as the inquiry-based approaches of the Primary Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate and Reggio Emilio. Our staff are early year's specialists from different parts of the world who all bring their own training and experience to the preschool, enriching the curriculum offered.

We hope to create a place where children and adults are happy, secure and respectful of each other's culture, opinions and belongings. While we look after our children, we hope that they will learn to look after each other and our school, and that we all have a respect for the environment in which we work and play.

In Stepping Stones, we aim to provide an environment that:

- ? is safe, happy and secure
- ? provides both challenges and opportunities for success
- ? combines children's interests and experiences
- ? provides reasonable expectations
- ? offers experiences that cover all developmental areas
- ? supports the family as a whole
- ? acknowledges and supports children's cultural and language diversity
- ? gives children sense of belonging
- ? values children's contributions
- ? encourages independence
- ? encourages understanding and respect differences
- ? enables children to separate from parents confidently

- ? develops trust in other adults
- ? resolves conflicts constructively
- ? helps children learn to share space, toys and other materials.

How we learn

Children learn by being actively involved with their environment as they attempt to make sense of the world around them. Young children learn through active exploration and example, watching, exploring, creating, experimenting, discovering, experiencing and manipulating. Each child is unique with individual needs, experiences and contributions to be valued and therefore should be encouraged to develop as an individual- independently making their own decisions and initiating their own learning. We aim to provide children with the skills to grow as competent and confident learners and communicators.

Learning through play

Play is children's work; it is how they learn and make sense of their world. Play can be:

- ? Self-initiated and spontaneous
- ? A means of self-expression
- ? Experiential learning
- ? Personal development
- ? A way of finding out about people
- ? A way of learning to live with people
- ? A means of thinking
- ? A means of developing and practising skills
- ? An aid to developing concentration
- ? A way of nurturing creativity
- ? An opportunity to explore, experiment, and test ideas.

The Curriculum

The curriculum at Stepping Stones is based on good practice taken from a number of established Early Years programme. The focus is on hands on practical learning through exploration and play, with a strong emphasis on developing children's personal, social and emotional skills and also encouraging creative development. Each group is offered a wide variety of experiences and activities each day, based on the children's interests and needs. Staff plan the learning environment and activities based on observations of the children in their group, and projects or topics come from the children's interest. The kind of opportunities available include story time, music, drama, song and dance, gym or yoga activities, art/crafts, science and more. Children learn maths, language and literacy and investigation skills in hands on practical situations as they explore the world around them. There is a strong focus on developing children's social and emotional skills in the preschool, using the real-life experiences children have of learning to recognise and express their emotions, and of all the joys and difficulties of being part of a group and building relationships with others. You will receive more information about the programme in the welcome meeting.

Our different classes

We have 3 groups at Stepping Stones. The Polar Bears, The Tiger cubs and the Tigers. *Each group have their own qualified and experienced staff working with them.* There might be some overlap in ages in the groups. This is to allow for individual differences in the children's development, as well as numbers of children in each group.

Leave of absence

If your child is out of school, please inform your child's teachers and the office. If your child does not attend for more than 3 weeks and Stepping Stones Preschool does not receive payment on 1st of each month, we are not obligated to hold your child's space.

Starting School

Starting school is like a journey, that takes time, preparation, and planning. We can help children most successfully by supporting them before, during and after they have commenced school. It is important for parents and teachers to work together sharing information they have about the child and what support he or she may need.

We know that settling into school and separation from parents can often be difficult. This is not unusual and most children from time to time find it difficult to say goodbye to parents and caregivers at the start of the day. If children are crying, usually they will settle quickly and stop crying 5 minutes or so after parents have left, and be playing and happy. If you are very worried, you can wait outside on the street and we can call to let you know they are o.k. If children are very upset and do not settle for a long time, we will call you and let you know. Once your child knows the preschool and the staff, it is often better to make your stay brief. It is harder on the child when you prolong your stay with too many hugs and kisses. A quick hug and kiss and reassure them that you will return is a great way to let them know you love them and yes you will be back. If we cannot console your child after an hour or so, you will be called to come and pick up your child. If your child is just starting to attend Stepping Stones and is extremely upset, they may need to come for just an hour or so a day until they get used to Preschool.

Starting school can mean many things to different children. It may be the first time your child has been left with people he or she does not know. Adapting to different teachers, languages, classroom, school, friends and challenges can be exciting for some children. However, it can also be overwhelming for them; they have less experience in dealing with the unknown. Here are some tips on what you can do to make starting school a more pleasurable experience.

Preparation

- You can help your child settle in to preschool by being positive about it and talking about what they might do at school.
- Help your child to be as independent as possible. Particularly with the children from 3+, they may feel more comfortable if they can do things such as open their snack container or drink bottle, unzip their trousers and coats, put jumpers on and off and identify his/her bag and other belongings when you are not there.
- Plan with your child how you will say goodbye. Make a routine for leaving your child each morning, for example you will come in and play one game, do a puzzle, or look at a book and then say good bye and go.

Whether your child settles easily or takes a bit longer, the most important thing you can do is talk with them about how they are feeling and reassure them. Please talk with your child's teacher about how your child feels and how you are feeling, as they have seen many children and parents experience similar situations. Together we can all work towards making the preschool years a happy time.

How can I help?

- Please do not stay longer than the time you planned or prolong the goodbye process, this only makes the child feel insecure.
- Please do not leave quietly without saying goodbye, just because your child seems busy.
- Please be punctual when collecting your child. They can become very distressed if you are late and he/she is the last one left at school.

Children who start later in the year.

We have many children who start at varying times throughout the year. Whilst many children have been in other Early Childhood settings, we do like all children to follow the settling in schedule for the first 5 days. After this time, please talk with your child's teacher and be guided by their recommendations. This is a totally new environment and it is often difficult for children entering established classes and they may need time to adjust and settle in to our programme.

Moving between Classes

About 1 month before children are due to move group, we will begin a "transition" programme of visits to their new group so that they can get used to the new routines, space and staff. Parents will be given further information about this when their children are ready to move group.

Life at Stepping Stones

Opening hours

Stepping Stones Preschool is open the following hours: 7.30 am – 17.30 pm.

If you are going to pick up your child earlier or later than usual, please call us or let us know that morning or the night before if possible. This is important because we go on outings and may be away when you arrive.

Arrival and departure

You will need to bring your child to school in good time for the start of their first morning activity. This is an important time setting the tone and starting the day calmly in their groups. It helps children to feel included and involved, and they are given an introduction to the day's activities.

Children sometimes misbehave a bit at departure times. This is normal since they are excited to see parents, and upset about leaving their friends. Please respect the school rules and make sure that your child behaves in a correct and positive manner at drop off and pick up times. We will give you a few minutes to try to get your child to behave; if they continue to misbehave then we will speak to your child and remind them of our expectations. Our rules are there to protect the safety and well-being of all our children.

Children of all ages adjust to the transition of going home differently. Most do not like to be too rushed; sometimes just a quick look at something they have been doing that day will make departure a lot easier for the child. It can be difficult for children to wait too long once they are ready to depart.

You should hold your child's hand upon entering and leaving Preschool, and come in as quietly and calmly as possible! Let us know that your child has arrived or is going home, and do not forget to sign in and out of your child's group register. If the teachers are busy and not in immediate sight, please wait to make the teachers aware of your child's arrival and departure. Once you have arrived and your child is with you, you are responsible for your child. Please take them with you if you go to collect bags or other things- it is very difficult for staff when they do not know if the children are with you or not. Please do not let your child run out to the car when you are leaving. *There could be a bicyclist coming along the bicycle path and they may not be able to see your child.*

We prefer that there are no pickups during nap/quiet time, (from 12.00-14.00) but if it is necessary, please be as quiet as possible.

If you drive to school, it is vital that you respect the entrances and garages of our neighbours as they have on many occasions found it impossible to enter or leave their homes. We must park (teachers and staff included) so that the garages and entrances remain clear **at all times, even for a quick drop-off**. Failure to comply with this will lead to legal steps by our neighbours, and could result in parking fines, and we will enforce this strictly. Continuous abuse of this will result in your child being asked to leave the preschool.

Late pick up

Please do try to be on time to collect your child, as outlined above it can be stressful and upsetting for children to be left behind waiting. If pick up becomes a big problem termination of services may result. The teachers are under no obligation to provide an extension of time if such extension conflicts with the teachers own plans. Late arrival does not justify late departure.

Authorisation for pick up

We cannot allow any child to leave with anyone except the people on your child's pick-up authorisation form, unless you inform us in writing in the morning that someone else is going to be picking up your child.

Without written consent, we cannot release your child.

How our days are structured

... Quiet/nap times

The younger children (Polar Bears) nap from 12.00-14.00. Older children have 20-30 minutes quiet time.

Children may be engaged in quiet activities after they have had a short relax time on their mattress. Those who wake early will participate in a quiet activity until rest time is over. Please try not to schedule pick-ups or visits during this time.

... Outdoor play

Research into Early Childhood development highlights the importance of time outside for children. We strongly agree with this, as children need the space and fresh air for their physical and emotional health. In Denmark where sunlight levels are quite low through the winter months, the Health Department advice is that children should spend at least 1 hour per day outside. For these reasons, please be aware that part of everyday will be spent outside. We will go for walks in the park, and play outside in the garden. Children will be outside for at least an hour every day, except in the very worst weather, and you must ensure that they have the proper outdoor clothing so that they are warm and dry. (Please check the supply list for more information.) During outdoor playtime, all staff will be busy. Staying indoors at these times is not an option.

...Lunch and snack

Children eat lunch provided by the school. We have a catering company providing lunch to the school Monday-Friday and it is mandatory. Children eat snack brought from home, in their classrooms. We try to foster a family type atmosphere during meal times and encourage children to be polite, sit nicely, and to be as independent as possible. **We encourage healthy eating at school so please do not send sweets/candies, fizzy drinks or chocolates. This also applies to arrival and departure times-please do not bring sweets/candies into the preschool where other children can see them.** If you would like advice about what to send for snack, please ask your child's teacher.

We never force a child to eat, but staff members will sit with the children talking to them and encouraging them to eat their food.

...Clothing

Please send your children in appropriate clothing for preschool. They need to be dressed in comfortable and practical clothing, suitable for the weather. Children will be engaged in indoor and outdoor play. They will be involved in gym, art, craft, and maybe cooking or science activities. In other words, children will be exploring and experimenting with many different materials and may get messy, so please do not send them in clothing that you want to stay perfect! While staff will make every effort to ensure children use aprons when painting or cooking, Stepping Stones will not be held responsible for any damage to clothing.

We are trying to develop children's self-care skills and independence. Please try to dress them in clothes with easy fastenings that are not too difficult to get on and off. Shoes with Velcro are very helpful so children can fasten them by themselves.

Please see the supplies list in the reference section for equipment your child needs. They need to have appropriate outdoor clothing. Please ask staff if you do not know where to get these things.

...Toys

While younger children may need a special toy for comfort during settling in period, we generally discourage children from bringing toys to school. Toys can easily be lost or broken, causing distress for the owner. Please do not let children bring toys such as plastic knives and guns to school. We wish to encourage co-operative and creative play.

Managing Children's Behaviour.

At Stepping Stones, we have a positive behaviour management policy based on the principals of giving children clear and consistent expectations and boundaries, and helping children to understand and take responsibility for the consequences of their actions. Children are supported in developing the social and emotional skills they need to be able to manage their own behaviour. Each group also has their own individual approach matched to the needs and abilities of their children. As a guideline, the school has a set of clear, child-friendly "golden rules" as shown below.

Communication with parents

Good communication between home and school is very important for your child's welfare and education, particularly in the early years when the home setting is so important. You are your child's first educator, and your involvement and attitude towards their progress is vital. We will post information about activities on our parent's notice board, and send home newsletters and information about what your child is doing at school so that you can support their learning at home.

If you have any problems or questions, your child's teacher will be available to talk to you whenever possible, although as their first priority has to be to the children we do ask that for longer discussions you try to make an appointment first if you can. The Director will be available from 8.30 – 15.30 almost every day to talk to you about any questions or concerns you may have. If it is an issue requiring some depth or a long meeting, she may arrange a meeting time with you. Our aim is to ensure that parents feel welcome at Stepping Stones and are an important part of their child's preschool experience. Your suggestions and opinions are always valued.

Parental Involvement

We welcome parents into our classrooms and there are many ways you may like to be involved. Some parents like to come and cook with the children, read stories or sing songs in your first language, or share cultural activities or festivals. If you have an idea of something you would like to share with your child's class, please talk to their teacher.

Home / School communication

We use a number of different forms of communication as below:

- Notice Boards: situated near the school entrances or at the entry to classes, will display general information such as about the schedule, what children have been doing, or reminders of any special events or requests.
- Emails: Will be sent out, giving any necessary information.
- Newsletters: You will receive a monthly newsletter from the office and a weekly/monthly newsletter from your child's classroom.

Reports and parent's meetings

Your child's teachers will once a year write an evaluation on your child and invite you to a annual parent-teacher conference. The evaluation is intended to document your child's interests, progress and achievements, and will include detailed observations of your child. The teachers will also collect

photographs of your child engaged in a variety of activities, samples of your child's work or artwork.

Everything will be collected in a portfolio together with your child's assessment. The portfolio is handed to you and your child when your child moves to another group or leaves the school.

*Assessment for young children is based on observation of children engaged in everyday activities and play.

Children will not be "tested" and it is important to note that all children develop at their own rates and in their own time. Assessment can be used to pick up any problems a child may have, and to give an idea of what the child is ready to work on- but will not be used to give "grades."

Parents Board

The aim of the Parent's Committee is to facilitate communication between parents and Stepping Stones staff, in order to work together and share ideas and suggestions, to co-ordinate special events or fund-raising for the school, and to address any concerns or resolve problems.

Please see the separate sheet "Parent's Committee" for further information, and how you can get involved.

Babysitting, tutoring, child minding.

Staff employed at Stepping Stones shall not take any position such as tutoring or babysitting children from this preschool, from any class. The main reason for this rule is in order to maintain equal and professional relationships between all members of staff, children and families in the school.

Health and Safety

Creating a safe environment:

We work hard to provide a safe, attractive and stimulating environment for all of the preschool community to enjoy. We cannot maintain a high standard without your support. Please help us in the following ways:

- Please make sure we have an up to date emergency contact number for you.
- Please use the class registers to sign your child in and out.
- Please keep the gate closed at all times for the safety of our children.
- Please follow the guidelines in the arrivals and departures section and make sure staff know when your child arrives or leaves.

- Please note that you are responsible for your child when you are here, please do not leave children wondering around outside the playground while you go to collect bags or chat with friends- it is very difficult for staff to monitor children once you have arrived.
- The school's classrooms and other areas cannot be used by parents or children without a class teacher or school administration's permission.
- Everyone should take care to safeguard trees, plants and bushes in the gardens, as well as the fences surrounding the gardens and the borders along the entrance path. Please do not let children pick flowers or climb on the fences or gates.
- Pets cannot be brought onto school premises unless with the express permission of the Director. We must protect those children and adults with allergies and/or nervousness around animals.
- Mobile telephones or cameras may never be used to photograph others on preschool premises. Abuse of this policy could result in dismissal from the school.
- The adults' bathroom in the basement cannot be used by children. The children may use only children's bathrooms upstairs. The sinks may be used only for hand washing, not for the cleaning of clothes or shoes.
- Please provide indoor shoes for your child and also please either remove your shoes or use the blue shoe covers stored at the school entrances when coming in to the building. This is to protect the floors and keep them clean as children are often sitting or playing on the floor.

Illness:

There may be times during the school year when your child may need to be excluded due to ill health. If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them at home. It can be very stressful for children, coming to school if they are not well. Children often say they want to come to school, when in fact they are not really well enough to attend. We do ask you to make these decisions.

If your child becomes ill while at preschool, we will call and ask you to take them home. After being sent home we ask you to keep them home for at least one extra day before returning to school. Sick children need additional care that we can't provide. We must also consider the other children's well-being.

The definition of a well-child is: A child that is not reliant on paracetamol, does not have a high temperature, is well enough to participate in all pre-school activities (including outdoor play), has a normal appetite, is happy and sociable, does not require a greater staff ratio and has normal bowel function.

The following illness policies will be strictly enforced, for the health, well-being and safety of all concerned.

Examples of symptoms that suggest your child should not be in school include, but are not limited to:

1. Fever (37.5c orally or higher). Child needs to be fever free for 24 hours.
2. Diarrhoea or vomiting. Child needs to be free of diarrhoea or vomiting for 24 hours.
3. Sore throat, loss of voice, hacking or continuous coughing, runny nose with coloured discharge
4. Runny and/or crusty eyes: watery, matted, and/or red/pink eyes.
5. Unexplained Rash
6. Excessive Crankiness: Child is irritable, excessive whining or crying, wants to be constantly held.
7. Lice (child may return to Preschool after 24 hours from the treatment is applied).
9. Contagious diseases (for example chicken pox, roseola, conjunctivitis, mumps, measles, influenza, etc.)

This benefits your child and the other children. Your help at keeping your sick child home is appreciated.

Parents of a child with a diagnosed contagious condition (measles, head lice, pink eye, mumps, chicken pox, etc.) are asked to notify preschool as soon as possible so that we may alert parents to watch for symptoms in their own children.

Medication:

We will not give paracetamol or other non-prescription medicines to children in pre-school. If they have a fever, are tired or unwell they should be at home.

If your child is on prescribed medication and it needs to be taken while he/she is at Preschool, the medicine must be in the original container and labelled with the child's name, doctor's name, name of medication, dosage, and when to be taken. We also need a note from the doctor explaining how to give the medicine and what dosage. If medication is to be taken only twice a day, i.e. (morning & night) then it will need to be done at home. A medication form will need to be filled out that morning so please make sure you have a few extra minutes. We will not administer medication until it has been given by the parent/guardian for at least 24 hours. If your child refuses to take medication from their teacher, we will not force them to take it, but we will contact you to inform you of their refusal.

Please make sure all medicine is handed to the teacher for safe storage.

Injuries:

Although children are carefully supervised and the preschool is regularly checked for health and safety maintenance, while children are playing accidents happen from time to time. Minor cuts and bruises suffered while at preschool will receive proper care -- they will be washed with soap and warm water and properly bandaged. If your child is allergic to band aids/plasters please let us know.

If a head injury or serious accident should occur you will be contacted as soon as possible. In emergencies an ambulance will be called to take your child to Gentofte hospital.

All injuries need to be documented. You will be asked to sign an accident report.

Toilet Training

For younger children.

Let us know when you have begun toilet training with your child. After your child has been training at home for about a week we will begin training here. Of course, children this age may still have occasional accidents and staff will deal with this in a caring and understanding way. Please make sure your child has a full set of spare clothes at school including underwear and socks, and that they are replaced when some have been used and sent home

Sun Safety

Here at Stepping Stones we follow the health guidelines from the Danish Health Authority. Our sun policy applies from April to September. Please apply sunscreen on your child before bringing them to school. We will apply sunscreen again after lunch.

Please bring a sun hat for your child. Please note from midday – 2pm we will be inside or in the shades.

Water is always available for the children and we remind them to drink plenty of water during the day.

Activities and events

Field trips

Throughout the year we may take some field trips. Some of the field trips we will be taking are to the Zoo, Aquarium, Museums, fire station, parks etc. You will be notified about all field trips in advance. If you do not allow your child to participate, they can stay at school with a different group if there is space, or you may be asked to keep them at home that day. Staff numbers are strictly governed by numbers of children

in the school's care. Children participating in field trips should be dressed appropriately to stay warm and enjoy being outside. Parent will be responsible for any admission charges and other expenses involved with the field trip.

We will also at times take small trips out to the shops or the park, or other local areas. The permission form you have signed on your child's enrolment covers these trips, which may be spontaneous and based on the weather, number of children in that day or something that catches the children's interest or attention. The older children try to go to the park on a weekly basis, and need parent volunteers to help with this. Please see your child's teacher if you can help out.

Cultural Celebrations/ social events

As we are an international preschool, we have families from all over the world, and a rich resource for sharing cultural experiences! If there is a cultural event that you or your family would like to share with your child's group, please fill in the Cultural Celebrations form in the reference section. As a preschool we will celebrate some of the main events in the Danish calendar, including Halloween, Christmas, Fastelavn, and Easter. See the Cultural Celebrations form for more information.

Birthday Celebrations

When your child is celebrating a birthday, you are welcome to send in a birthday snack to share with your child's group. Please talk with your child's teacher at least a few days in advance to organise this, and to check no children have allergies. You can bring a cake, snacks, and juice. **No fizzy drinks, candy or chocolate are allowed.** Parents of children in the Polar Bears group are kindly asked not to come along to join the snack time, as it is confusing and sometimes upsetting to the child and other children when parents appear in the middle of the day and then leave again! Parents of older children may discuss this with their child's teacher. Please note we have also made it a policy not to hold birthday parties for children at the preschool.

If you are holding a birthday party at home for children, please only send invitations to school if you have one for all the children in your child's group-otherwise please send them by post or email as children who are left out will be upset

Reference and forms

Equipment required for your child:

- outdoor: rain-trousers and coat, rain boots. For winter, snow-suit, boots, hat and gloves, for summer, sun hat, sun cream
- indoor shoes: practical, non-slip shoes, sandals or slippers to wear indoors.

- complete change of clothes: (including socks and underwear) in a bag to be kept in your child's drawer
- blanket, sheet or mattress cover, pillow if required: to be taken home to wash every month
- Nappies/Diapers/wipes: Children will need their own supply of nappies/diapers and wipes.

Please write your child's name on all belongings!

Settling in Information

Our settling in procedure aims to help both parents and children feel comfortable and get used to the daily schedule and routine. New children will settle in during their first week at school or their first 5 days, in order to make them feel familiar with the new school setting and the teachers.

Here at Stepping Stones we want to ensure that the transition into the classroom setting goes as smoothly as possible, making the child feel safe and secure. We want to create a positive impact on the child's happiness at school from the very beginning. *Please note, all children are individuals and have different needs. While some children will adjust easily to the new environment and new routines, others will take longer to feel comfortable and secure. Therefore, the teachers will monitor the first days of adjustment and decide whether the child need a longer settling in period.*

Before start, you will be invited to a meeting where you will receive a welcome folder including the settling in schedule.

Parents Committee

We have a parent's board; the aim of the Parents board is to facilitate communication between the parents of the children at Stepping Stones and the Stepping Stones staff; in an effort to ensure that all involved in the preschool are working together as a team to provide the best opportunities possible for the children.

The parents board meet 4 times a year.

Among the functions of the Parents Committee are the following:

- *To serve as a forum for discussion of issues that may arise concerning the children.* This is a very broad subject. If there is a particular concern regarding your child, you may wish to speak directly to his/her teacher. But if there is an issue or concern that may affect more children, this should be brought to the Parents' Committee for discussion. For example, a parent may have questions or concerns regarding the curriculum, the extra activities, other children or teachers. Instead of

bottling up opinions, we invite you to share your concerns with the Parents Committee so that all potential issues can be discussed and resolved in the best interest of the children.

- *To organize extra-curricular activities for the children, including celebrations of holidays.* Holiday activities are occasionally celebrated here with special occasions and events. The responsibility of the Parents Committee includes working with staff to plan parties or other celebrations.
- *To arrange meetings and social activities among families in an effort to promote communication among parents and support for new families, as well as involvement in the school.* Examples of such meetings and activities are: coffee mornings, trips, a summer party to celebrate the end of the school year.
- *To arrange fund raising activities to support specific purchases beneficial to the children.* For example, library books, playground equipment, or education equipment/toys for the classrooms.

If you would be willing to get involved in this, please sign up below. Remember every little help, even if you feel you will only be able to help now and again, that is fine, just let us know when you are available and how much you feel you can commit. Please note we will have a board election meeting once a year, at the *welcome back to School* meeting in September.





Parents committee

I would like to sign up for the next parent's board election meeting.

I would like to help, occasionally, for parties etc.

Comments _____

Child's name.....

Classroom.....

Date & signature.....

Cultural Celebrations.

We have been thinking about how to manage celebrations in our multi-cultural, international setting, to help children to enjoy and celebrate our different home backgrounds and experiences. We have decided that we will share Danish cultural celebrations in the school, in order to give the children some links with the country they are living in. The festivals we will celebrate include Christmas, Fastelavn (a Danish tradition celebrated in February) Easter and also Halloween which although not originally Danish is now widely celebrated across Europe. Although originally these are religious festivals, we will mainly be concentrating on the Danish cultural traditions, activities, crafts, music and foods that go along with celebrating these times of the year. You will receive details about each celebration as they arise.

If there is an occasion in your calendar that you would like to share and celebrate with the children in your child's class, please sign up on the form attached and return it to school. This could involve cooking some special food, reading a story or learning a song or dance, or perhaps an art or craft activity.

As an International Pre-school, we are very lucky to have the opportunity to offer children interesting and fun experiences from around the world, encouraging them to begin to respect and enjoy the diversity of our cultural heritage. However, we understand that for some families joining some celebrations may be a sensitive or difficult issue. If this is the case, please talk to us about your concerns. If we can help by considering your perspective in the way things are explained and presented to children, we are happy to do so. If your concerns cannot be resolved, you are of course welcome to withdraw your child during the celebration.

Thank you for your support.

I would like to share a celebration with my child's class.



Child's name.....

Child's class.....

Event & Date



Please note: Stepping Stones International Preschool may terminate care if the terms in our Handbook and policies are not followed.

We hope most of your questions are answered!

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to come and talk to us.

Here at Stepping Stones international preschool, we would like to reassure you that your child is in the safest of hands. The Teachers here at Stepping Stones stay current with new knowledge in the children's area and take on different courses as; body and movement, traffic safety, first aid etc. In addition, we will always do our best to ensure that the children are learning in a happy, fun and positive environment.



for your time

Best wishes,

The Stepping Stones staff team.

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