

St. Ignatius Early Childhood Center Guidance Program

Brief Descriptive of Early Childhood Center, Students and Staff

St. Ignatius ECC offers a developmentally appropriate early childhood program for children aged 2-5 years of age. Our facility is located at the Northern most portion of St. Ignatius Catholic Church property. Our program hours of operation are 9am-12pm daily, with an extended day starting at 8am for Before Care (Morning Crew) and After Care (Lunch Bunch) Monday-Friday from 12pm until 2pm. We follow the Diocese of St. Petersburg school schedule as well as the Pinellas County School Calendar, for the most part.

St. Ignatius ECC employs 12 staff members. We have a list of several fingerprinted and Safe Environment Trained Substitutes that we utilize as needed. Our staff members are part time. The Director is the only full time employee.

School Guidance Program

As an Early Childhood Center, we do not have a guidance counselor. We have made the following arrangements, if there would be a need for a counselor or crisis intervention as well as the curriculum items noted that support this area of development.

Contact the OCS&C (Kay Rizzo) to request a Crisis Intervention Team to assist with specific situations that warrant their expertise.

Contact Guardian Angels Catholic School, Clearwater. Arrangements in place with Cindy Malinski to share their Guidance Counselor, Donna Eliason, if a situation arose that warranted consultation and/or a counselor on site.

Refer families to FDLRS and other agencies depending on issue at hand.

Safe Environment Curriculum - 3 & 4 year olds

Refer families to parish priest or deacon, as appropriate

Coordinate guest speakers/programs to enhance curriculum

Consultation and Coordination:

1. The Director meets with teachers to discuss student issues.
2. The Director consults with parents and teachers during parent conferences when appropriate.
3. Teachers, in consultation with the Director, offer community resources to the parents.
4. The Director consults with the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers, if necessary.
5. Once the family has signed documentation, the Director contacts the community resource.
6. The Director and teachers consult with and support Inclusion resource staff.
7. The Director coordinates Safe Environment workshops for parents and volunteers.
8. The Director coordinates the Safe Environment curriculum for teachers and children.
9. The Director coordinates the Guidance Curriculum for teachers and children.
10. The Director coordinates guest presentations for children, such as Fire Fighters, Police, Pediatric Dentist, etc.

The school-based guidance program provides:

1. Wee Learn and Creative Curriculum assessment tool twice a year.
2. Ages and Stages Questionnaire assessment tool if there are concerns about developmental delays.
3. Safe Environment Curriculum
4. Guidance Curriculum
5. School Crisis Plan, which includes a Crisis Intervention Model. In the event of an emergency, contact the OCSC, 727-344-1611.

Community Resources:

Abuse Hot Line (children, disabled, elderly):
(800) 962-2873

Adult ESOL (English for speakers of other languages):
(813) 740-7750

Catholic Charities:

((727) 893-1314 main office; (813) 631-4370 Hillsborough office

Children's Crisis Unit at Mental Health Care:

(813) 272-2882

Crime Stoppers:

1-800-873-8477

Tarpon Springs Police Dept: (727)937-3737

Diocese of St. Petersburg, Office of Catholic Schools and Centers:

Mr Alberto Vazquez; Kay Rizzo; Helen Marston; Chris Wiand

(727) 347-5539

Florida Child Care Resource & Referral:

1-866-357-3239, www.flready.com

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) (Child Find):

(813) 837-7777

Florida School Readiness Program:

1-866-357-3239, www.flready.com

Poison Information Center:

(813) 844-4444; 800-282-3171