



## Special Needs Policy

**The First Steps** - St. Andrew Preschool will partner with parents who have children with special needs to find the right school environment. If the parents' primary goal is socialization, a community preschool may be fine. However, if the parents' goal is for their child to master functional skills, the better choice may be a special-education preschool that works on these skills throughout the day.

**Questions and St. Andrew Preschool's answers for parent's first steps in finding the right school for their child with special needs:** Parents should begin by visiting schools and talking to the Director and teachers about their child's challenges. Parents should provide the school with copies of testing, doctor's reports, and other relevant information.

**Parent Question: Can this preschool accommodate all the needs of my child?**

**St. Andrew Preschool's Answer:** We have a highly trained staff that sets high, but achievable goals for children with special needs. St. Andrew Preschool tries to achieve a good relationship for information sharing, collaboration, and understanding with parents and other professionals in order to take into account the complete needs of the child.

**Parent Question: What is the school's curriculum? Does it match my child's level of development?**

The curriculum should be play-based and developmentally appropriate for your child's developmental age, which may not be the same as their chronological age.

**St. Andrew Preschool's Answer:** We use a developmentally appropriate, play-based curriculum. However, St. Andrew Preschool classes are based on a child's chronological age, not developmental age.

**Parent Question: Does your child have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan)? Does the preschool have a resource person (s) on staff to oversee the accommodations my child needs for compliance with the IEP requirements?**

**St. Andrew Preschool's Answer:** We do not have resource staff available to accommodate a child with an IEP.

**Parent Question: What is the class size and number of teachers in each class?**

Small groups are best for children with special needs, with at least two teachers for each group.

**St. Andrew Preschool's Answer:** Most of our classes have one teacher and the number of children in each class is based upon the chronological age of the children in the class consistent with NAEYC standards.

**Parent Question: Does the school foster needed partnerships with professionals outside the school environment? Is the school willing to work closely with my child's therapists?**

**St. Andrew Preschool's Answer:** We welcome early intervention with specialists based upon our assessment program.

**Parent Question: Does the school have facilities that can accomplish therapy on-site with the resources and equipment needed? Does the school have the financial resources budgeted to accommodate all of my child's needs or would I have to subsidize the school to make sure my child's needs are met? For example, what if my child needs a shadow to facilitate their participation in the total program or my child needs special equipment on the playground to facilitate gross motor development?**

**St. Andrew Preschool's Answer:** We do not have facilities for specialized on-site therapy and needs facilitation. St. Andrew Preschool does not have financial resources budgeted to provide these facilities.

**Parent Question: What does St. Andrew Preschool have to offer to children with special needs?**

**St. Andrew Preschool's Answer:** A teaching staff committed to the NAEYC Code of Ethics and who work with children with special needs by focusing on early identification of special needs through regular observations and assessments, making reasonable adaptations that permit children with special needs to use the play areas and participate in the St. Andrew Preschool developmentally based curriculum, and collecting information from parents to find out the children's visual, hearing, emotional, learning, self-help, and communication needs. In partnership with the Director, the teachers will continually assess their ability to work with each child to maximize the child's potential and determine if St. Andrew Preschool is indeed the best environment for the child.