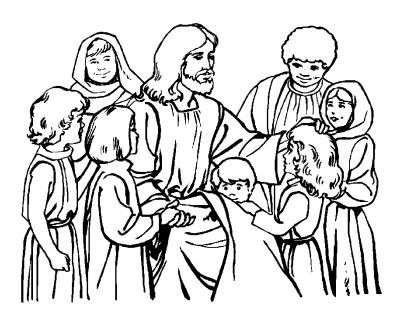


St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development Center

Parent Handbook

Updated: September 2016



"Let the children come to Me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
HISTORY	2
PHILOSOPHY	2
STATEMENT OF GOALS	2
ORGANIZATION	2
CURRICULUM	3
ENROLLMENT	3
SUPPLY FEE	3
TUITION DISCOUNTS	4
SCHEDULE CHANGES	4
WITHDRAWAL	4
DISMISSAL	5
ARRIVAL/PICK-UP	6
CLOTHING	6
SHOE POLICY	6
YOUR CHILD WILL NEED	6
PARENT INVOLVEMENT	7
PETS	7
LUNCH	7
SNACK	7
POTTY TRAINING	7
TRANSPORTATION	8
LOST AND FOUND	8
HEALTH	8
MEDICATIONS	9
ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS	
INSURANCE	9
FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES	9
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN	10
GANG FREE ZONE	10
CELEBRATIONS	10
BIRTHDAYS	
WATER ACTIVITIES	11
WEBSITE	11
CONCERNS OF WELL BEING AND SAFETY	11
CONCLUSION	11

INTRODUCTION

This Handbook has been developed to inform parents whose children are enrolled in our center's programs about the policies and procedures of our Child Development Center. Communication is key to any relationship and we strive to keep you informed and up to date. As a parent, you will be notified in writing of any changes and or additions to any policy or procedure in this handbook during the school year, no less than 10 days prior to implementation. Parents are expected to read, understand and be familiar with this Handbook as it also serves as the Parent Contract which will require your signature of receipt, understanding and agreement.

HISTORY

Established in January of 2001, we have grown from our humble beginnings as a Part Day Program that afforded the mothers of our parish an opportunity to run their weekly errands, while ensuring that their children would be cared for in a safe, faith filled, and developmentally appropriate environment. A new Full Day Program was established in June of 2006 to meet the needs of working families in the parish and in our community.

PHILOSOPHY

Believing that each child is made in the image and likeness of God, we minister to each child and his/her family as the child develops spiritually, socially, physically, emotionally, and intellectually. We focus on providing high quality, developmentally appropriate care to children in a Catholic environment. We are continually challenged to identify and to minister to the needs of our children and their families.

STATEMENT OF GOALS

The overall purpose of the St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development Center is to provide developmentally appropriate and nurturing care for children in a Catholic environment for our local parish and the larger community. The following goals are necessary to meet that purpose:

- To teach basic Catholic principles by word and example.
- To help children grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith through Bible stories, age appropriate activities, and the celebration of special feast days and customs.
- To provide a safe and healthy environment that encourages play, exploration, and learning.
- To provide interactions and activities designed to foster a healthy self-esteem and a love for learning.
- To encourage each child to solve problems independently.
- To promote physical development through fine and gross motor skills.

ORGANIZATION

The St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development Center is a licensed, non-profit organization. The Pastor of the Parish is the administrator. The Child Development Center's Director is responsible for the day to day operations. The Saint Thomas Aquinas Child Development Center Board serves as an advisory group to both the Pastor and the Director.

The Center cares for children in two Program options:

The Full Day Program is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am – 5:30 p.m. for children ages 6 weeks through 4 years old year round (September – August).

The Part Day Program is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 2:30 p.m. for children ages 6 weeks through 4 years old year round (September - August). Parents may choose a Tuesday/Thursday option, a Monday/Wednesday/Friday option or a Monday through Friday option.

Please see the Academic Year Calendar for a complete listing of dates that the Child Development Center will be closed. (We generally follow the College Station ISD calendar.)

CURRICULUM

The goal of our Child Development Center is to provide a developmentally appropriate program that is structured to fulfill the needs of our children. The curriculum, or plan for learning, is everything that happens throughout the day. Our curriculum includes prayer, language experiences, art, music, physical skills, manipulatives, dramatic play, science, nature, cooking, literature, outside play and more. Children are expected to participate fully in all activities.

Developmental skills, creativity, and exploration are enhanced through these units. We have visits from community helpers, like firefighters, in order to give children a greater awareness of the world around them. Additionally, children age 3 and up will have the opportunity to take gymnastics classes through the Brazos Valley Gymnastics "Acrobus" program, and music through "St. Cecelia Singers", with our Parish Music Director, for an additional fee.

The St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development
Center is a Catholic program committed to sharing
the gospel of Jesus Christ with children in age
appropriate ways. With young children, Bible
truths are taught through experiences and
relationships, as well as, through words. During
class time, children are taught that God loves them
and we are all God's children. Basic Christian
principles are taught by word and example...to love
one another, to be kind to each other, to comfort

those who are sad, and to share with each other. Bible stories and times of prayer are shared with the children. For our Pre-K children, the *Godly*

Play curriculum (a Montessoribased religious education program) is introduced. The priests of the parish conduct a weekly prayer time with all the children and staff.



ENROLLMENT

The enrollment contract is for one academic year (September – August). An annual \$150 per child registration fee is due as part of the enrollment process. This fee is non-refundable, non-transferable, due at time of registration.

Once enrolled in the program, children will remain enrolled for the academic year or until a 30-day written withdrawal notice is received. Each academic year, children may be promoted to their appropriate classroom based on age and availability.

Children may be enrolled as places become available throughout the academic year. Enrollment for any student is subject to administrative approval.

In the spring you will have the opportunity of reenrolling your child for the following academic year. The \$150 enrollment fee must be turned in at time of re-enrollment to secure your child's place for the fall.

SUPPLY FEE

The St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development
Center charges an annual supply fee that is due by
the first day of attendance each academic year.
This fee covers supplies for the classrooms
including markers, crayons, scissors, paper, glue,
glue sticks, construction paper, paper towels, soap,
etc. The supply fee also covers the expense of
providing daily snacks, the curriculum used in the
classrooms, as well as replacing outdated or broken
items such as toys, furniture, and manipulatives.

TUITION

Tuition is due on the first day of each month.

Tuition rate forms are available in the CDC Office.

Tuition is due on the first day of each month and is considered delinquent on the 7th. Payment received after the 7th will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Additionally, if tuition payment and any applicable late fees are not received by the 7th, children will not be allowed to attend the CDC on or after the 8th, until the account is paid in full. Children will be dismissed if tuition is not paid by the 12th.

If you will be away on the payment due date because of illness or other events, please make arrangements to mail the tuition or drop it off at our Church Office by the 7th or include the late fee(s). There is a \$25.00 returned check fee. Tuition will NOT be pro-rated or refunded. Late fees (for tuition and pick-up) are considered part of tuition.

We are unable to provide "drop-in" services to <u>unregistered</u> children. However, if you wish for your child to attend an occasional day that he or she is not registered for, and space allows, an additional fee of \$30.00 per day will be charged. Children registered for the Part-Day Program may be allowed occasional "extended day" services. The extended day fee for the morning is \$10.00 per child and the extended day fee for the afternoon is \$15.00 per child.

TUITION DISCOUNTS

We offer two different types of discounts to our families: Multiple child, oldest sibling discount OR a parishioner, oldest child discount (only one discount per family).

If you wish to partake of the parishioner discount, the Parish Investment forms may be obtained from the CDC office.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Notice for schedule changes must be submitted a month before you are requesting a change to take place, changes take place at the beginning of a month and are not prorated. Schedule changes are also based on availability and approval.

WITHDRAWAL

A **30-day written notice** is required prior to withdrawal from the Center for any reason. A withdrawal form may be obtained from the CDC office. Paid tuition will not be pro-rated or refunded.

A \$25.00 <u>re</u>-registration fee is due for children who withdraw and return in the same academic year.

Families terminating their contract before August have the option to be placed on end of the waitlist. Families will need to fill out a waitlist form and attach the \$25 fee. This option does not guarantee placement in the fall.

ABSENCES

When your child is enrolled in the Center, he/she takes up a reserved space that is held open. Expenses remain the same whether your child is here or not. There are no refunds or make-up days for missed days. Consistent and prompt attendance is advised. If for any reason your child will be late, absent, or out for an extended period of time, please contact the CDC Office (979-693-6994)

DISMISSAL

While it is always regrettable to dismiss a child from our St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development Center classes, there are times when such action is appropriate and necessary. Some situations that demand expulsion are:

- Non-payment of tuition or fees by the 12th of the month.
- Inappropriate behavioral acts of a child who violates the rights of others and who shows no improvement to change such behavior.

It is our policy at St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development Center that we do not allow anyone to hurt another. Again, we understand that many toddlers go through developmentally appropriate stages of hitting, biting, etc. Some additional examples of disruptive, unruly and inappropriate behavioral acts are as follows:

Biting, hitting, kicking, disrespect and/or defiance of teacher/authority, spitting, yelling, pushing, scratching, pinching, cursing, etc.

It is extremely important that the child's parents work with our staff and Director to resolve these behavioral stages while protecting all the children.

Parent/Teacher conferences with the Director along with documentation of behavior will be employed.

- Parents are notified by notes and phone calls.
- Conference is held with parents and teachers to set up a plan to deal with inappropriate behavior.
- Daily reports are sent to the parents.
- The child is dismissed when no improvement is seen within a certain time period to be set by the Director and with parent notification.
- There will be no refunds of tuition for a child that is dismissed.

DISCIPLINE AND GUIDANCE

As a Catholic Child Development Center we seek the fullness of truth and discipline. As caregivers and role models for young developing individuals, we take great care to ensure that they are being formed in a way according to the Christian principles we are called to uphold. Therefore, STA CDC employs discipline that is:

- Individualized and consistent for each child;
- Appropriate to the child's level of understanding;
- Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

Our caregivers use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, selfcontrol and self-direction, which include at least the following:

- Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only on unacceptable behavior;
- Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements;
- Redirecting behavior using positive statements;
- Using brief supervised separation or time out from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development, which is limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age.

We will not tolerate harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment of any child. The following types of discipline and guidance are prohibited:

- Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment;
- Punishment associated with food, naps or toilet training;
- Pinching, shaking, or biting a child;
- Hitting a child with a hand or instrument;
- Putting anything in or on a child's mouth;
- Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child:
- Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language;
- Placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet with the door closed;

• Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods of time for the child's age.

All of our discipline policies are in accordance with Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Chapters 746 & 747, Subchapters L, Discipline & Guidance that govern our actions as a State Licensed facility.

ARRIVAL/PICK-UP

Everyone will enter and exit through the <u>front main</u> <u>entrance</u> to the Child Development Center. <u>Please</u> <u>do not park in the FIRE LANE</u>. For the safety of the children, please enter and exit the parking

lot at a slow rate of speed.

Each morning, children must be accompanied to their rooms by a parent or authorized adult.

<u>Children MUST be signed</u> <u>in/out on a daily attendance</u> form in the classroom.



Children should never be left in their classroom unless there is a teacher or staff member present. Please be sure the staff sees you when you bring your child into the room. The Center will not be responsible for children whose parents do not do this. Children will be released only to those persons whose names appear on the registration form. Written notice of any changes to this agreement must be signed by the parent(s) and submitted to the Director. St. Thomas Aquinas Church has no legal authority to refuse either parent the right to pick up a child unless a court has granted temporary or permanent custody to one parent or to a third party and the school has been furnished with a copy of the court order. Photo identification and documentation of one's driver's license number is required by licensing to verify identity.

For liability and safety reasons, please do not leave unattended strollers and/or car seats on our campus.

The Center is licensed to provide care from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. for the Full-Day Program and 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. for the Part-Day Program.

A LATE PICK-UP FEE will be assessed per child for late pick-up. The fee is \$1.00 per minute.

For example: 5 minutes = \$5.00, 10 minutes = \$10.00 etc.

CLOTHING

We play in mud, sand and water; we cook and make many marvelous goops; we glue and paint (not always just with brushes)...so please have your child wear comfortable play clothes so that he/she will feel free to participate. Each child must have an extra set of seasonal clothing in his/her cubby or bag/backpack. Please label the clothes with your child's name.

Outside is our favorite place to be so please put sunscreen on your child in the morning and dress him/her appropriately for the weather. Due to Texas State Licensing regulations, our CDC Staff is not allowed to put sunscreen on children in our school.

SHOE POLICY

Suitable foot covering must be on your child's feet upon arrival each day. For safety reasons socks and athletic (tennis) shoes are recommended. Flipflops, shoes with cleats, backless shoes and boots are discouraged.

YOUR CHILD WILL NEED

To keep at school:

- A rest mat (Kindermat) and light blanket please no pillows or sleeping bags or fluffy items, due to limited storage space.
- A pillowcase to store your child's mat.

To have in your child's bag/backpack daily:

- A lunch and drink (no soda, sweet tea, candy, or gum)
- A change of clothes (to remain in backpack/diaper bag)

- A back-up supply of disposable diapers/pullups, if applicable
- Your child may bring an item from home to have during rest time that may make him/her feel more comfortable. However, children should not bring toys from home to play with.

Infants:

- Formula/breast milk, water (if desired), disposable diapers and wipes
- Multiple changes of clothing
- Pacifier

Mothers who are nursing are welcome to come during the day to nurse their children. Please coordinate with your child's teacher if you wish to do so.

Please LABEL all items brought to school. Thank you!

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

If this is the first time your child will experience a childcare/pre-school environment, your positive attitude will greatly affect the initial adjustment to our Center. While a majority of children have little difficulty in adjusting to new situations, some do experience teary separations. A brief stay with your child in the classroom on the first day is recommended if the situation warrants. There may be tears, but reassure him or her of your return and leave promptly. Call the Center to check on your child as often as you like, and we will be honest with you about his or her progress. Please remember that a child can sense any reservations on the parent's part, so a positive attitude must be maintained to assure a smooth transition.

Parents are welcome to visit the program at any time during hours of operation, for any reason, without prior approval. Parent involvement is welcomed and encouraged. All parents who wish to volunteer must complete Diocesan requirements for Ethics & Integrity in Ministry, including a background check, an on-line

application, and attendance at an Ethics & Integrity in Ministry workshop. See the Director for more information on how to fulfill these requirements.

Individual classroom and Center newsletters, which provide information about activities, are sent home regularly along with other notices as needed. Your child's cubby should be checked daily for important information. Parents are provided with a daily record of diaper changes, feedings, and activities. There is a parent bulletin board by the office posting state notifications, the current month's snack menu and the most recent Licensing inspection report. Parents, please read all notes and newsletters. We strongly encourage parents to participate and communicate with us.

PETS

At various times we have classroom pets, such as (but not limited to) fish and turtles.

LUNCH

Your child's lunch should be something he/she can feed themselves (except for infants). Remember to pack foods that your child enjoys and that are safe and healthy to eat. Children will not be allowed to share lunches. Also, please do not forget a drink for lunch (please no soda or sweet tea). For your child's safety, please do not send gum or candy. We always aim to make lunch an enjoyable time for your child.

SNACK

A mid-morning snack will be given to all children and an afternoon snack given to children in the Full Day Program. This includes a variety of food items. The monthly snack menu is posted on the parent bulletin board and in each classroom.

POTTY TRAINING

In regards to potty-training, our school's policy requires all children going into the <u>3-year-old</u> <u>classrooms</u> to be potty-trained prior to entering the classroom.

TRANSPORTATION

The Center does not provide transportation, except on an emergency basis. <u>Permission for emergency transportation MUST be given on the Consent/Release Form.</u>

LOST AND FOUND

Lost articles will be kept in the classroom or in the office. Any extra items of clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name, especially jackets. The Center will not be responsible for items left over 30 days.

HEALTH

We require all teachers who regularly work with students under the age of 6 months, to obtain the flu vaccine in an effort to help protect children and others from the flu. The immunization must be obtained by November 15th each year. A copy of the teacher's immunization record or receipt is required to show that the immunization was obtained. Documentation showing the completion of the flu immunization, medical exemption from the immunization will be kept in each employees file and is to be renewed every 12 months.

If an employee is exempt from obtaining the vaccine, written documentation must be submitted. The documentation must be from a practicing, nonfamily member physician or a notarized document from the health department. If a teacher does not obtain the immunization they must at all times, during flu season, wear a face mask and gloves for the safety of others. A teacher who does not obtain the immunization for religious or medical reasons will not be discriminated against. Failure to obtain the immunization without being exempt for medical or religious reasons may be accepted as the teacher's resignation.

All children must have a current medical examination and immunizations, and 4-year olds must have vision and hearing screenings (when they turn 4). (TB tests are not required in this

county.) Documentation must be submitted on the first day of attendance. This is to conform to the laws of the State of Texas and the Department of Human Services. Please inform the Director and your child's teacher of any chronic medical problems or allergies before his/her first day of school. *An emergency treatment authorization must be on file for each child.*

Please keep your child at home if he/she:

Has a temperature of more than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (oral) in the morning. Children should be free of fever for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to the Center.

Has conjunctivitis, an eye infection commonly referred to as "pink eye". The eye is generally red with some burning and there is thick yellow drainage being secreted.

Has bronchitis. This can begin with hoarseness, cough and a slight elevation in temperature. The cough may be dry and painful, but it gradually becomes productive.

Has a rash that you cannot identify or that has not been diagnosed by a physician.

Has impetigo of the skin. Shows up as red pimples. These eventually become small vesicles surrounded by a reddened area. When the blister breaks, the surface is raw and weeping.

Has diarrhea (watery or greenish bowel movements that look different or are much more frequent than usual). Your child must be free of diarrhea for 24 hours

Is vomiting (more than the usual spitting up in a baby). Must have not vomited in the last 24 hours.

Has a severe cold with fever, sneezing and nose drainage.

Seems really sick without obvious symptoms. In this case, a child may look and act differently. There may be unusual paleness, irritability, unusual tiredness, or lack of interest. Has any contagious disease - measles (Red or German), chicken pox, mumps, roseola, etc. **Please let us know if your child becomes ill with a communicable disease so that other parents may be notified.**

Has been diagnosed by a doctor as having an ear or throat infection until medication has been administered to the child for at least 24 hrs.

Children in attendance must be able to participate in all activities, including outside time.

Note: If a condition develops during the day, a parent will be notified and the child must be picked up as soon as possible. A sick child will be attended to and kept comfortable in the office until parents arrive. An illness form will be filled out that must be signed by a parent/guardian when the child is picked up.

Head lice, *Pediculus capitis*, are parasitic insects that feed on human blood and cause severe itching of the head. If head lice were to affect your child or another child in the school, several actions would be taken:

Parents of infected child would be notified, and the child would be immediately removed from the child care setting until further notice.

Infected student may return to school once one treatment with an effective medicated shampoo or cream is utilized and the student is lice and nit free.

To assure effective treatment, the child will be checked for any evidence of new infestation daily for 10 days after treatment.

MEDICATIONS

We prefer no medication be sent to school, as our staff is not allowed to administer medication (Special circumstances will be considered – please notify director.)

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Parents are notified of any accidents or incidents. Always leave a phone number where you may be reached if it is different from the emergency numbers on file. Accident/Incident reports are filled out by the teacher and signed by the Director or the person in charge at the time of the accident/incident. Parents are asked to sign the report for proof that you were notified. .

INSURANCE

St. Thomas Aquinas has liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 for each occurrence of negligence covering injury to a child. A copy of the certificate is available for review upon written request.

FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development
Center is extremely concerned and cognizant of its
role in correctly managing situations that require
first aid or emergency care. Our staff is required to
be certified in CPR and basic first aid. Our staff is
also trained in emergency and safety procedures.
Specific safety and emergency procedures are
posted in each classroom and in the Staff
Handbook. We practice fire drills monthly and
severe weather drills/emergency evacuation every
three months.

The CDC is in possession of a "weather radio" that informs us of any incoming inclement weather (i.e.—tornado watches/warnings, flash floods, thunderstorms), child abductions, etc. In case of an emergency requiring children to be picked up early from the site or from an alternate shelter, parents will be notified by phone and should also tune into local reporting stations (TV channel KBTX and radio stations 104.7 and 106.1).

In case of a medical emergency, which requires advanced medical attention, parents will immediately be notified by phone by the Director or designee. If the situation warrants transportation to the emergency room, the Director will go with the child, and parents will be notified by phone to meet at the hospital.

Consent for general first aid items is also included on the First Aid Consent Form, which must be turned in by the first day of class.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

In case of an emergency requiring off-site relocation, our alternate shelter is A&M Church of Christ located on the north side of the church property at 2475 Earl Rudder Freeway South.

Should off-site relocation be necessary, infants will be transported in buggies and all other students will walk to the alternate shelter. Children will remain grouped by classroom and will be supervised by their teachers. Classroom teachers will carry the classroom sign-in sheet in order to account for children in their care.

Teachers, children and other CDC staff will exit through the back of the building and proceed through the back church parking lot to the access road on the north side of the church property. They will cross the access road and continue through the Science Park parking lot and enter through the main entrance of the A&M Church of Christ building.

The director's cell phone number will be the emergency contact number on file with Childcare Licensing. CDC Staff will use personal cell phones and any other available telephones to communicate with Childcare Licensing, local authorities and parents.

Authorization Forms with emergency contact information and authorization for emergency medical care will be carried by classroom teachers in the classroom binder. A master binder with all student Authorization Forms will be carried by a designated staff member.

Once staff and children are in place at the alternate shelter and everyone has been accounted for, parents will be contacted and asked to immediately pick up their child(ren). If we are unable to reach the parent(s), the first emergency contact will be called and asked to immediately pick up the child(ren). We will expect all children to be picked up from the alternate shelter within an hour of contact.

As parents or emergency contacts arrive to pick up children, they will be asked to sign-out their child on the classroom sign-in sheet, as would normally occur. Classroom teachers will stay with their students until all students have been picked up and signed out by a parent or emergency contact.

GANG FREE ZONE

As a result of House Bill 2086, our childcare center is designated as a gang-free zone. The purpose of gang-free zones is to deter certain



types of criminal activity in areas where children gather, by enforcing tougher penalties. Certain gang-related criminal activity or engaging in organized criminal activity within 1000 feet of our center is a violation of this law and is therefore subject to increased penalty under state law.

CELEBRATIONS

We have many celebrations throughout the school year (see Calendar). If parents are interested in helping with holiday parties (see "Volunteer Requirements" in Parent Involvement section) or providing refreshments, sign-up sheets will be posted in each classroom prior to the party. Parent participation is greatly appreciated! We have many special event celebrations throughout the year.



We are unable to allow children to switch days in order to attend an event. If space is available in the class and with prior consent of the Director, parents may choose to send the child for the whole day, but must pay the daily rate of \$30. Parents may accompany their child to school to attend the event for no additional fee, but must remain with their child during the event. All children are encouraged to attend the Christmas Program and the Spring Program.

BIRTHDAYS

Children love to celebrate birthdays at school. Please verify the date you wish to celebrate at least a week in



with your child's teacher. Please send easy to handle refreshments. Some nutritional alternatives to cupcakes are raw vegetables with dip, fruit kabobs, or muffins. If you wish to send invitations to school, please send enough so that each child may receive one; otherwise, please mail the invitations. For the safety of all children at the Center, NO balloons may be brought for class parties!

WATER ACTIVITIES

Each year, during the summer months, we have "Splash Day." During these times, wading pools are provided by the parents and our school.

Each class has water play time.

Extra supervision is provided by

parent volunteers (see "Volunteer Requirements" in Parent Involvement section).

WEBSITE

Please see our website (www.stabcs.org) for a copy of the Parent Handbook, upcoming events, calendar information, and more!

CONCERNS OF WELL BEING AND SAFETY

If this is the first time your child will experience a childcare/pre-school environment, your positive attitude will greatly affect the initial adjustment to our Center. While a majority of children have little difficulty in adjusting to new situations, some do experience teary separations. A brief stay with your child in the classroom on the first day is recommended if the situation warrants. There may be tears, but reassure him or her of your return and leave promptly. Call the Center to check on your

child as often as you like, and we will be honest with you about his or her progress. Please remember that a child can sense any reservations on the parent's part, so a positive attitude must be maintained to assure a smooth transition.

It is our top priority to keep your child safe from all harm while in our care. In Texas, each person is a mandated reporter of abuse or neglect, which means that if you (or our staff) suspect a child is being abused or neglected, you are required by law to report it. The Child Abuse Hotline number is

1-800-252-5400. The local Licensing Office number is 979-731-0130, and the website is http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/. "Minimum Standards" and inspection reports are available on this website and in the CDC office. In addition, if at any time you see something that appears suspicious, makes you uncomfortable, or violates policy, please bring it to the Director's attention, or that of the St. Thomas Aquinas parish's Pastor, or directly to the Diocese of Austin Bishop's office at 512-476-4888.

CONCLUSION

It is our policy that each child's needs are met. If you have any questions or concerns about our Center, the policies and procedures, or the care of your child, please bring it to the attention of your child's teacher and/or the Child Development Center Director. Concerns may also be addressed with the Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. We strive to make your child's stay at St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development Center a pleasurable experience.

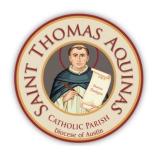
May God bless you and your family. We wish you a very successful and happy academic year! Thank you for choosing St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development Center!





Because your child deserves the best!

Serving children spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially in a Christ-centered atmosphere.



St. Thomas Aquinas Child Development Center