



Welcome to the Step by Step School

We are pleased to introduce the first issue of the Step by Step School quarterly newsletter. The School opened its doors in September, 2011, with five children. We now have more than twice the number of students, five tutors, one trainee and an administrator. The School is run by the Step by Step Foundation, a registered charity. Our tutors work hard to ensure that each child learns the skills they need to function at their highest possible potential. Parents play a crucial role in the development of their child. Not only do they need to follow through with the same teaching methods used at the school but they also need to create a wholesome environment for their child's development.

Recognizing the challenges of raising a child with autism, we held a workshop for parents on good parenting. The session was well attended and parents said that they gained a lot. Many thanks to Bonita Harris, our workshop facilitator!

On October 25th, 2012 the children participated in our day of sports at the National Park. Parents and children came out for a fun time of recreation and games. A big thank you to the Oasis Café for the delicious snacks.

Our Christmas party is scheduled for December 14, 2012. It is part of our Christmas tradition to give a gift to each child. Both the children and teachers look forward to this event.

Circle time



Meet our Consultant: Dr Jim Ellis...

Jim is a US-based consultant and psychologist who is an expert in autism and the Applied Behaviour Analysis approach to autism treatment. His engagement with autism in Guyana began in 2008, before the establishment of our Foundation and School. Jim has trained all of our tutors, and continues to monitor their performance and the progress of the children. He visits Guyana at least twice a year to oversee activities at the School and to diagnose autism in children referred to us by doctors and teachers.

A huge thank you to Jim for his generous efforts on behalf of Guyanese children with autism and their parents.





An individual session

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MEET SAMEIR...

Sameir was one of the first children to attend Step by Step. When he started at Step By Step, Sameir did not have any way to communicate, had very little understanding of language, and had a very difficult time staying focused.

Although Sameir is still not talking, he now uses some approximations of words and uses a picture communication system. He has also made great progress in following a variety of directions, with playing games with the other children, and with staying more focused on the school activities.

Sameir arrives at school every day with a smile and brightens up the day of everyone he meets!

Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis

Autism Spectrum Disorders are complex developmental disorders that typically appear during the first three years of life. Children show repetitive behaviours, difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, play activities and social interaction.

Autism affects the development of the child in three broad areas: communication skills, social skills and inappropriate behaviours.

The School uses the Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) approach to improve the communication, social and behavioural skills of autistic children. The ABA method is scientifically proven to help them to achieve their fullest potential. For maximum impact, the ABA method should be started as early as possible, and the child should attend school regularly.

Here are just a few signs that may indicate that a child has autism: fails to respond to his or her name, has poor eye contact, loses previously acquired ability to say words or sentences, performs repetitive movements, such as rocking, spinning or hand-flapping.

If you have any questions, please call us.

Our School Bus...

Parents living on the East Coast or in West Demerara can now use the school bus to get their children to and from school.



THANKS TO ALL OUR FUNDERS and SUPPORTERS

We wish to say a very special thank you to all the businesses, organizations and individuals who have helped us in one way or another. The School would not exist without your generosity. On behalf of the children and their families, we say a heartfelt thank you.

We would love to name all our supporters, but the list is too long. We hope to highlight specific contributions in future newsletters, as we have done in this one.

How can you help?

Our running costs are high because the ABA method is based on individual and small group work, and so we have to have more tutors than other schools do. You can help by...

- Making a donation
- Committing to a monthly or quarterly donation
- Sponsoring a child from a needy family
- Volunteering your time to help with bus duty or helping with the children during school hours.

If you wish to make a donation, you can give us cash or a cheque (to The Step by Step Foundation), or deposit or transfer the donation into our account in Georgetown:

Republic Bank, 38-40 Water Street
 Acct: The Step by Step Foundation
 Acct. no.: 651-576-1
 Swiftcode: RBGLGYGG

A helpful visit and gifts from members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.....

They came with educational toys, a printer and a computer, and they cleaned our School. Thank you!

