

A DAY AT SCHOOL....

What do our children do at school? Here’s how the days are structured and what our main activities are.

Instructional periods: Tutors work with a maximum of three children each on individualized programmes. Programmes include the use of various forms of communication to respond to questions and requests, to ask for things and to imitate. Children are taught words or learn to point to pictures or phrases on ipads.

Learning to socialize: This is done in various ways

- Circle time when children gather together, identify their names, listen to a story, sing a song, recite poems. A different theme is run every five weeks.
- Dancing and turn-taking games
- Free play outside: the trampoline, water play, play on the plastic scooter, the toy bus, and rocking horse, ball games

Academic work: this includes reading, writing, mathematics, puzzles, matching numbers and colours, as appropriate for each child.

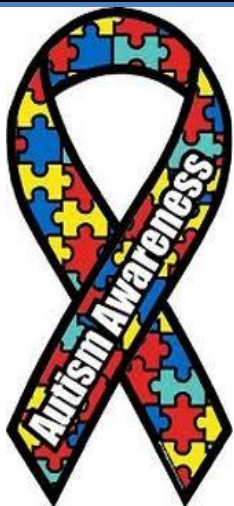
Arts and crafts: colouring, tracing, cutting and pasting, working with glitters and glue.

Life skills: children learn to say hi and goodbye, to put away and retrieve backpacks, remove and put on footwear, brush teeth, prepare for and eat meals (retrieve and unpack snack or lunch, identify placemat, ask for and use cutlery appropriately).



Meet Yvonne....tutor since 2011

Tutor Yvonne Veersammy has been with Step by Step School since it opened in 2011. Her passion for working with children and the training she received from our consultants has helped her overcome the many challenges she faced and to cope effectively with the children. Yvonne says that the prospect of a bigger and better school and of working with the Ministry of Education is a dream coming true. These exciting developments will allow many more children to receive that specialist help they need to reach their highest potential. She encourages parents to continue working with their kids at home so that they can perform to the best of their abilities.



**APRIL IS
AUTISM
AWARENESS
MONTH**

**JOIN US ON
OUR AUTISM
WALK ON
APRIL 2. SEE
DETAILS ON
THE NEXT
PAGE**

EXCITING NEWS.....

The Ministry of Education has given us land on the compound of Cyril Potter College of Education to build a new school!

We are now seeking funding to build our bigger and better school.

PLEASE HELP US RAISE FUNDS

HOW YOU CAN HELP

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



I am Safeena Imran, mother of 7-year old Alameen Yacoub.

From birth to 3 years, Alameen behaved quite normally. Two months later, I was shocked when his doctor told me he was showing symptoms of autism. I did not even have a clue about the word autism. That same afternoon I went home to educate myself. Endless tears started to flow. I tried to tutor him myself with every bit of knowledge that I thought would help. He is not a burden but a blessing, a gift

from God. Alameen has changed my life in terms of parenting. Every day is a learning stage for us. But today I feel fortunate to know that Guyana has a prestigious Foundation (Step by Step). I want to acknowledge Dr Jim and the entire staff of the School for giving Alameen a mountain to climb. He is now making full sentences and requests and answers questions! I don't know what words to use but...

THANK YOU STEP BY STEP

EVENTS PLANNED FOR APRIL - AUTISM MONTH:

- April 2, Promenade Gardens: Join us at 6:40am for the Autism Awareness Walk, led by our Patron, First Lady Mrs Sandra Granger
 - Sale of t-shirts
 - Press announcements
 - Newspaper articles
 - Television programmes
- The theme of the month is **LIGHT IT UP BLUE**

THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.... Step by Step's Chairperson at Republic Bank's donation ceremony



Stacey's progress... Seen on a visit to the zoo...

When 11-year old Stacey entered the Step by Step School she could not hold a spoon or fork. Today Stacey eats independently, and has learned to use both hands at the same time.



This is Shoib....a real star!

Shoib was one of the first students to join us at Step by Step. When he started with us, Shoib did not have any way to communicate, he had very little awareness of his environment, and had a difficult time staying focused. He can now speak, and puts together sentences to express himself. "Shoib Khan", as he likes to introduce himself, is reading books and working on simple addition of numbers. He can also get the tutors' attention by calling them by their first names. This 8-year old has great potential, and it will be amazing to see his development unfold!
By Anjalena Beshpatty, Senior Tutor



Learning new skills....Jen Stornelli, occupational therapist, has joined our team of US-based consultants (Jim Ellis and Kerry Davis). Here Jen conducts a fine-motor lesson with tutor Yvonne and children.



Guyana Goldfields donates for transportation costs



A generous donation from the Gafoor Foundation



Christmas 2015 at the School

News in brief....

- Our collaboration with the Ministry of Education is soon to begin, exchanging training and teachers.
- Welcome to our new Peace Corps Response Volunteers: Anna Alden (special needs teacher) and Sarah Cook (occupational therapist).
- Visit our updated website:

www.stepbystepguyana.org

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