



## **The Step by Step School**

**Lot 3, Bagotstown  
East Bank Demerara, GUYANA**

### **A School for Children with Autism or other Developmental Neurological Disorders**

#### **What is Autism?**

Autism (or Autism Spectrum Disorders) is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. Children display repetitive behaviours, difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interaction and play activities.

Autism affects children's development in three broad areas:

- Communication skills
- Social skills
- Behaviour



#### **Diagnosing Autism**

Parents may have noticed that their child is not developing as quickly as other children. Or the doctor may give a preliminary diagnosis of autism. To get a full diagnosis, a psychologist with experience in autism is needed.

The Step by Step School has access to the services of Dr. James Ellis, an expert psychologist who has extensive experience of children with autism. Dr. Ellis lives in the USA, but visits Guyana regularly. If a parent wishes to register a child at The Step by Step School:

- The Senior Tutor conducts a preliminary assessment
- A full diagnosis will be carried out by Dr. Ellis on his next visit to Guyana
- If the child is diagnosed as autistic, s/he will be placed on our waitlist, and admitted when space is available.

#### **The Step by Step School**

The Step by Step School is run by the Step by Step Foundation, a not-for-profit organization offering quality learning opportunities for children with autism or related disorders. The Foundation is supported through donations from individuals and businesses.

The School uses the Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) approach to improve the communication, social and behavioural skills of children with autism. The ABA method is scientifically proven to help them to achieve their fullest potential.

ABA uses one-on-one teaching and small group work. Each child has an individualised programme which allows them to develop at their own pace. Because of this, each teacher is assigned a maximum of only two to three children. Our teachers have all been trained by Dr. Ellis and have extensive experience. We now also enjoy the services of two more US-based consultants: Dr. Kerry Davis, a speech language pathologist, and Ms Jen Stornelli, an occupational therapist. All consultants visit the School regularly and monitor progress through weekly Skype sessions.

We encourage parental involvement; the ABA method works best if parents continue to use it at home. We welcome parent volunteers; mothers or fathers can spend as much time as they wish at the school, learning how to help their child develop fully, and participating in the school's activities.

Children with autism will make the greatest progress if exposed to the ABA approach as early as possible. ABA can be started as early as age 3, or even earlier. The School accepts children aged 3 to 12 years.



**Contacting us:**

If you want to meet us or if you would like to visit the school, please call Dr Suraiya Ismail, the Foundation's Chairperson, on (+592) 222 2633 or the School's Administrator on (+592) 233 5992..

**Parents may make donations to support the work of the school.**

**No child will ever be refused admission for financial reasons.**

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US, DO VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

**[www.stepbystepguyana.org](http://www.stepbystepguyana.org)**

