



Handbook Afternoon School Program Stichting EGO



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1. Introduction: Supporting Children's Growth

Children are nurtured and protected by their parent(s), forming the foundation for their future. Their relationships with parents, siblings, grandparents, and close family members create their "inner world," which is essential for their emotional security and well-being.

As children grow, they encounter the "outside world"—often for the first time in school or afterschool programs. These settings serve as a bridge between the inner and outer world, where children form new relationships, learn to collaborate, and explore new ideas. This transition requires care and sensitivity to ensure it nurtures their social-emotional and cognitive growth.

The Power of Play



Play is a cornerstone of child development, equally as important as structured learning. It allows children to process experiences, develop creativity, and build critical life skills such as problem-solving, communication, and teamwork at their own pace.

Overloading children with homework and structured activities can hinder their ability to explore and recharge. Research shows that play helps children develop socially, emotionally, and cognitively, fostering skills they need for lifelong success.

Play-Based Learning in Afterschool Programs

At Stichting EGO, we believe in the power of learning through play. In our programs, children naturally develop skills that align with UNESCO's transversal competencies, which are critical for success in today's world:

- Critical and innovative thinking.
- Interpersonal skills like teamwork and communication.
- Intrapersonal skills such as self-discipline and perseverance.
- Global citizenship, promoting respect for diversity and tolerance.
- Media and information literacy for analyzing and understanding content.

Through activities like sailing, sports, performing arts, and team-building exercises, children practice these skills in a fun and engaging way.

Why Play After School Is Essential



Play is not a luxury—it's essential. It helps children process their day, relax, and develop essential skills in a stress-free environment. Activities like performing arts, experiential math and language, and team-building exercises create meaningful learning opportunities that go beyond the classroom.

At Stichting EGO, we strive to provide programs that support the holistic growth of children on St. Maarten. By fostering creativity, exploration, and collaboration, we prepare children for a brighter future.

Call to Action:

Enroll your child in one of our programs to support their social-emotional growth and well-being through play and experiential learning.

Key Takeaways for Parents and Youth leaders

- Play is essential for children’s social, emotional, and cognitive development.
- A balance of structured learning and unstructured play allows children to thrive.
- Afterschool programs create unique opportunities for growth through hands-on, engaging activities.

Let’s support children in becoming their best selves—one playful moment at a time.

2. Vision on the Child***2.1 General Perspective*****Vision on the Child****A Unique Approach to Every Child**

We believe every child is unique, developing at their own pace and in their own way. Their growth is shaped by their natural abilities, environment, and the opportunities they receive.

Through high-quality care and meaningful activities, we create a supportive environment where children can flourish. Our goal is to nurture confident, independent children who respect and value others.

By focusing on each child’s individual needs and pace, we help them develop the skills and resilience needed to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world.

2.2 Vision on Children

The child is at the center of everything we do, with respect for their individuality as a guiding principle. Our pedagogical climate balances group upbringing with opportunities for individual growth. Our environment stimulates children’s development in the following areas:

Physical

Social-emotional

Creative

Language and communication

Cognitive

We also foster an environment where children become aware of societal norms and values, ensuring they feel a sense of belonging while building strong connections with others and their surroundings.

2.3 Goals

Our organization believes Afternoon activities should be accessible to all, meeting the needs of children and their parents. The pedagogical goal is to support children in becoming balanced individuals who trust in their own abilities. To achieve this, we create childcare situations where children can:

Fully explore their potential;

Feel happy and secure;

Stand up for themselves;

Develop respect for themselves and others;

Participate in society with confidence and independence;

Build strong social skills.

Key Alignment with Our Policy

We integrate well-being, involvement, and connectedness into all aspects of our childcare approach:

Well-being: Ensuring children feel safe, secure, and valued in their environment.

Involvement: Actively engaging children in meaningful activities that stimulate curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking.

Connectedness: Nurturing bonds between children and their peers, youthleaders, and the environment, fostering empathy, respect, and a sense of belonging.

This holistic approach ensures that every child has the opportunity to develop their full potential while feeling deeply connected to themselves, others, and the world around them.

Pedagogical Guidelines

Our approach is defined by specific goals and pedagogical guidelines. Every parent or stakeholder can refer to these if they feel any point is not being upheld. They can contact the location coordinator. Should staff not adhere to these guidelines, there will be appropriate consequences.

- Every child has the right to optimal care.
- Every child deserves support in their development.
- We accept every child as they are and take them seriously.
- We provide children with structure and safety in a trusted environment.
- Challenging or negative behavior is addressed in the most positive manner possible. This is according to the PBS values of the location.
- No physical or verbal violence will ever be used against children; negative behavior is identified and explained calmly.
- Positive behavior is acknowledged and praised.
- Youth leaders support children's creativity in different forms such as dance, movement, music, and storytelling.
- We encourage children to interact with each other under the motto "together with each other, for each other."
- Youth leaders actively participate in activities, serving as role models.
- Youth leaders offer children a variety of activities to stimulate different developmental areas.
- Youth leaders help children to reflect on experiences for future discussions.
- Youth leaders aim for a relaxed group environment.
- Youth leaders act with calmness and confidence.
- Youth leaders give children freedom in how they engage with activities.
- Transitions between activities are announced to allow children to complete their current activity, supporting their sense of self-worth.
- When youth leaders want to address a child, they approach them directly, which is essential for interaction.
- The environment is arranged to be stimulating and engaging for children.
- Youth leaders intervene if they observe children struggling to find sufficient rest.
- A group file records each child's development, nutrition, care, behaviors, and habits.
- Youth leaders, parents, and children are involved in shaping the success of the program.
- Participation is a core principle at the Afternoon school.
- The child's well-being is our highest priority.
- Staff are encouraged to grow and develop through training opportunities.

The program welcomes all children regardless of abilities, offering activities that cater to various interests and needs.

3. Admission and Registration

To enroll in the program, parents or guardians must complete a registration form. Participation is only permitted once the monthly fee has been paid in full. By signing the registration forms and the rules and regulations, parents agree to abide by all rules and conditions of the program. Please note that certain activities, such as swimming or horseback riding, may incur additional costs.

4. Attendance and Pick-up Policy

To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, daily attendance is recorded, and parents are expected to inform staff in advance of any planned absences.

Children must be picked up no later than 5:30 PM. In the event of a late pick-up, a fee will be charged per child to cover the additional supervision required. The late fee is calculated as follows:

- \$10 between 5:30 and 5:45 PM
- \$15 between 5:45 and 6:00 PM
- \$20 after 6 PM

Only individuals who have been pre-approved by the parent or guardian are authorized to collect children from the program.

If parents are unable to pick up their child(ren) on time, alternative transportation must be pre-arranged to ensure timely pick-up.

5. Payment Terms

The monthly fee of ANG 172.90 or USD 95 covers all extracurricular activities offered by the program and must be paid no later than the 5th of each month. This fee remains the same throughout the academic year, from August to June, including months with school vacations.

We encourage payments to be made via online banking. We do accept cash payments, and this should be to the coordinator directly, versus the school office. The parent would then receive a receipt of payment for their records.

Bank Details:

- Account Name: Stichting Expertise Centrum Ervarings
- Account Number: 21796110
- Bank Name: Windward Islands Bank

For some specific activities, such as swimming, tennis, or horseback riding, an additional fee may be required. These additional fees are charged on top of the monthly fee as follows:

- Swimming: \$10
- Tennis: \$10
- Horseback Riding Experience; hiking, brushing and riding \$15
- Kayaking \$10

There is a minimum participation of 12 children for each activity.

Rates for the program are as follows:

- 1 Day per week: \$20
- 2 Days per week: \$40
- 3 Days per week: \$60
- 4 Days per week: \$80
- 5 Days per week: \$95

1 hour homework guidance only: \$50 per month.

Siblings receive a discount:

- 1st child: \$95
- 2nd child: \$90
- 3rd and additional children: \$85

Parents must submit proof of payment to the location coordinator. If payment is not received by the 5th, a reminder letter will be issued. Participation will be suspended until the outstanding balance is settled.

Students select their activities at the start of each semester.

Students are expected to remain in their chosen activities for the semester and may switch activities at the end of each term.

6. Behavior Guidelines

The program promotes the core values of Trustworthiness, Confidence, Respect, Responsibility, and Independence.

Children are expected to adhere to the following rules:

- Address staff and peers respectfully at all times.
- During meals, children must remain seated until everyone is finished. However, if children need to leave for homework guidance or off-campus activities, the supervisor may allow them to leave the table earlier.
- Negative behavior is addressed calmly and constructively; physical or verbal aggression is not tolerated under any circumstances.
- Positive behavior is actively encouraged and rewarded to foster a supportive and inclusive environment.

7. Health and Safety

To safeguard the health and well-being of all participants, parents are required to disclose any allergies, dietary restrictions, medical conditions, and prescribed medications on the registration form. This information is utilized to maintain an **allergy alert** list, which is shared with canteen personnel and the program's caterer to ensure appropriate measures are in place.

Children arriving with contagious illnesses are prohibited from attending the program to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all participants.

8. Communication with Parents

The program maintains clear and consistent communication with parents through multiple channels. Updates and announcements are shared via WhatsApp groups, ClassDojo, and letters. Formal notifications and important updates are sent through email.

9. Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Approach

The program is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment through the implementation of a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) framework. This approach ensures that all children, regardless of their needs or abilities, can thrive and participate fully in program activities.

For children requiring additional support, Individual Support Plans are developed in collaboration with parents and staff to address their unique needs and promote their development. Challenging behaviors are managed constructively and positively, focusing on proactive strategies and reinforcement of desired behaviors.

Inclusivity is a core principle of the program, with activities designed to cater to the diverse interests, abilities, and backgrounds of all participants.

10. Insurance

The program holds liability insurance for activities conducted during official hours. However, parents are advised to have personal insurance for their child to cover accidents or injuries beyond the program's scope.

11. Parental Responsibility

Parents are required to promptly notify program staff of any changes in contact information, the child's health status, or pick-up arrangements to ensure accurate and up-to-date records are maintained.

At the start of each academic year, parents are obligated to complete a new registration form. This annual process ensures that the program has the most current and accurate information regarding each child, enabling us to provide the best possible care and support.

Parents are responsible for paying the monthly mandatory fee on time.