



# Stepping Stones

The School for Early Childhood Education





## **Stepping Stones**

The step from home to starting school can, for many young children, be a big one. Our school is the natural stepping-stone to give children a good start to school life.

The aim at Stepping Stones is to provide a caring environment where children can learn through play. At Stepping Stones we recognise young children's need for care and emotional support as well as for learning experiences.

Our curriculum develops enquiring minds and a positive attitude. It aims to create an environment in which children feel secure and confident. The children at Stepping Stones are stimulated to enjoy learning through a variety of well-planned and carefully structured activities. They develop skills and concepts that will prepare them for primary school and give them a sound foundation for future learning.





## **Welcome to Stepping Stones**

Stepping Stones is located in the area «Im Jöchler» in Baar. It is only a few minutes drive from the Baar motorway exit or 10 minutes walk from Baar centre and train station.

The school is situated away from busy roads providing a safe environment for nature walks and regular strolls. The school occupies three floors with classrooms, cloakroom, library and music room on the lower floors and a spacious free play area upstairs for energetic play and role-play. There is a well equipped art and kitchen area upstairs with a beautiful view over fields and farmland.

The outdoor play area offers a variety of play equipment to challenge gross motor skills as well as provide opportunities for role-play. It includes sand play, slide, climbing frame, bicycles, scooters and a playhouse.



## **The Classes at Stepping Stones**

- **Playgroup** for children ages 2–3 years
- **Pre-school** for children ages 3–4 years
- **Pre-kindergarten** for children ages 4–5 years
- **Kindergarten** for children ages 5–7 years

The classes are run every weekday and children may attend:

- **Two times a week** on Tuesday and Thursday
- **Three times a week** on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- **Five times a week** on all weekdays

Children may attend mornings or full days or a combination of both.

Morning classes start at 9:00 and finish at 12:30.

Full day classes start at 9:00 and finish at 15:30.

Children may arrive between 8:45 and 9:00.

**The instructional language throughout the day is English.**



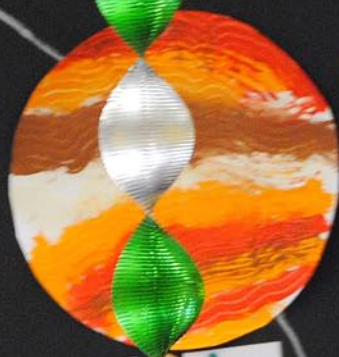
The **Playgroup** and **Pre-school** classes have a flexible timetable to allow for the individual needs of these young children. Nappies are changed regularly and cuddles are given freely. A variety of creative and learning activities are offered such as painting, cutting, sticking, puzzles, number games, shape games, language games, baking, play dough, threading and more. The Playgroup and Pre-school classes have regular music and movement lessons as well as taking part in singing and music sessions on a daily basis. The children are also inspired through stories and books. The children have the opportunity throughout the day for indoor and outdoor free play, sand, water and role play.

The **Pre-kindergarten** and **Kindergarten** classes have a more structured timetable, which nevertheless allows for flexibility throughout the school day. A balance of structured learning activities are provided for these classes, such as math and language activities and games, science and baking activities and much more. The Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten also have the opportunity to develop their creative skills through regular art lessons. Through carefully planned lessons and interesting theme work the children are introduced to reading, writing and basic mathematical concepts. Music and movement lessons are incorporated into the weekly schedule and the children take part in singing and music classes on a daily basis. The children also have the opportunity throughout the day for indoor and outdoor free play, sand, water and role play.



the Solar System

Planets



Jupiter

Saturn





## **The Curriculum**

All of the classes at Stepping Stones follow an Early Childhood Education Curriculum, which incorporates the following six areas of learning:

- **Personal, emotional and social development**
- **Communication, language and literacy**
- **Mathematical development**
- **Knowledge and understanding of the world**
- **Creative development**
- **Physical development**

We complement the curriculum with exercises to develop the children's co-ordination as well as their fine and gross motor skills. We also take regular walks and go on excursions throughout the school year.

The class sizes at Stepping Stones are small and are lead by qualified and experienced childcare staff and teachers, who have been carefully chosen for their experience and understanding of early childhood education.

# Terms and Conditions of Enrolment Agreement

## The school year

The school year runs from the end of August to June and is divided into three terms (actual dates are given in the annual school calendar). Term fees are due in August, January and March.

## Admission

Stepping Stones accepts children of all nationalities between the ages of 2 and 7 years. We advise that both parent and child visit the school before enrolment

## Insurance

The school is covered by a «Kindergarten» accident insurance policy. Parents should provide personal insurance cover for their child, as they feel necessary.

## Registration

To register your child at Stepping Stones, the application form must be filled in. On acceptance, a once-only non-refundable registration fee must be paid within 10 days in order to reserve your child's place. In addition, the enrolment agreement form must be signed and returned to us within 10 days.

## Withdrawal

There are 3 dates notice of cancellation can be given.

**Notice by 30th September for the Second Term starting in January**

**Notice by 31st January for the Third Term starting in April**

**Notice by 31st May for the following school year starting in August**

All cancelations must be in writing. If notice of cancellation is received after the above given dates, the full terms fee will be charged for the following term.



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**Im Jöchler • CH-6340 Baar**

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