

Supporting Every Child: Understanding St. David's Early Childhood Group Care Settings

At St. David's, we believe that every child deserves a space where they feel seen, supported, and celebrated. Children grow best in environments that reflect their individual strengths, needs, and ways of connecting with the world. That's why we offer a range of early childhood settings—each designed to meet children where they are and walk alongside families in nurturing their development.

Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, we collaborate with families to understand the whole child—how they play, communicate, relate, and regulate. This shared understanding helps us identify the setting that will best support the child's growth, healing, and joy.

1. Early Childhood Education Program

A relationship-rich environment that nurtures curiosity and discovery, where learning is child-led and teacher-guided. In this setting, children benefit from opportunities to explore, connect, and grow alongside peers of all abilities.

Who it serves	Children ages 16 months to 5 years of all abilities
Core strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inclusive classrooms with low teacher-to-child ratiosNature-rich campus with outdoor classrooms and a certified school forestInteractive, collaborative and reflective learning with High Scope's evidence-based curriculumOn-site access to early intervention and pediatric therapies
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development through playCuriosity and explorationCooperation and problem solving
Family role	Active partners in a nurturing community of educators and peers

2. Autism Day Treatment Program

A therapeutic, play-centered space for children with autism and their families. This setting supports children who benefit from intensive, relationship-based therapy in a structured, sensory-informed environment tailored to their communication and regulation needs.

Who it serves	Children age 2 to 6 with autism spectrum disorder or related conditions
Core strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary team (mental health, OT, speech) • Evidence-based therapeutic interventions including SCERTS and the Greenspan Floortime Approach© • Sensory-friendly therapeutic suites • Culturally responsive programming for East African and Latino families • Individualized treatment plans and weekly family sessions
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social-emotional development • Sensory integration • Communication support through play
Family role	Essential partners in therapeutic progress and home support

3. Family Place Day Treatment Program

A healing-centered treatment program in a preschool setting for children facing emotional and behavioral challenges. This setting is designed for children who need a therapeutic environment to process difficult life experiences, build emotional resilience, and strengthen relationships through consistent, supported interactions.

Who it serves	Children 3 to 5 years old at age of assessment with mental health diagnoses and impaired functioning across settings
Core strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary team (mental health, OT, speech) • Evidence-based approach using the Developmental Repair Model • Classrooms with low staff-to-child ratios • Weekly family therapy or skills-building sessions
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional regulation • Relational healing • Behavioral growth through play
Family role	Essential partners in therapeutic progress and home support

Matching Children with the Right Setting

Each child's journey is unique. A child's needs may evolve or become clear over time. Placement decisions and transitions between group care settings are made in partnership with families, guided by a deep understanding of the child's strengths, challenges, and developmental needs.

All children engage in play to explore the world, build new skills, and process emotional experiences. St. David's offers specialized settings where they will feel safe, supported, and empowered to grow.