

Accommodation Plan for Children with Special Needs

Our Savior Lutheran School strives to meet the diverse needs of all children and families. We recognize the importance of Early Childhood Education for all children, especially those with developmental delays or special needs. Inasmuch that it does not violate any school rules or policy, or the tenets of the Lutheran faith; we will make reasonable accommodations for the special needs of children and families enrolled in our programs. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all children receive the same high quality education and care in our programs, regardless of developmental, physical, or social differences.

Our Savior partners with both in-house and local school/community services in order to best meet special needs in the areas of diet (food allergies/cultural food restrictions), emotional, social, cognitive, developmental, cultural, and physical/medical requirements. Annual hearing and vision screenings are administered to all students in partnership with the Eaton/Barry Health Department, children are assessed in an on-going fashion in the classroom for academic, social, emotional, physical, and overall developmental milestones via our curriculum assessment tool (COR Advantage), and students presenting speech and/or language delays are referred to Eaton RESA for in-school services (or to the child's home district/region for outside services). Additionally, teachers utilize data from the Ages & Stages Questionnaires, which parents are asked to complete at the beginning of each school year, to help them meet the unique needs of each child in the classroom. Teachers and staff are trained annually in childhood trauma, trauma response and care, positive behavior management techniques, autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, sensory processing disorder, and other special needs we may see represented in the classroom. As such, teachers and staff also utilize classroom tools such as visual schedules, visual timers, sensory tools/toys, individual or small group quiet/alone spaces, mindful moments/practices, and a separate sensory break space for children needing those tools.

While we strive to be inclusive, we also recognize the importance of realistic goal-setting and care, so we realize that we may not be able to meet every child's special needs. Parents of children with special needs should meet with the Early Childhood Director at enrollment to discuss accommodations necessary and create a feasible care and education plan. Should a child have a need that cannot be met adequately here at Our Savior, the Early Childhood Director will make that clear in the initial meeting or at the time that the need arises so that the parent can make the decision whether or not to enroll at that time. Because our first priority is to keep children safe and teach them to love school, the Early Childhood Director may make the decision that a child may not enroll or continue in a program if his/her needs cannot be met here or he/she is a danger to himself/herself or other students in the class.

Our Savior Lutheran's Early Childhood Programs believe that every child deserves access to a high-quality education, and is dedicated to working with parents/families, as well as outside agencies, therapists, technologists, physicians, or other specialists to meet a child's needs. We believe that a developmentally diverse classroom not only promotes equity, but creates a more effective, well-rounded learning environment as children learn from each other as well as their teachers. In these ways, we believe our classrooms, teachers, and staff meet the needs of all students enrolled, regardless of ability.

Parents may find a copy of this plan any time on the school website: oursaviorlansing.org > School tab > Resources tab > Early Childhood heading.