



School address:
Three Little Ships and Lighthouse SE
Amalia van Solmsstraat 155
2595 TA The Hague
Tel: 070-3355 698
E-mail: cjaeger@hsvden Haag.nl
Postbank accountnumber: 353026 in the name of
Haagsche schoolvereniging inz. LH

International Pre-School “Three Little Ships”

Introduction

The Pre-school “Three Little Ships” was founded in the summer of 2006 by the Stichting Lighthouse Special Education at their premises on Amalia van Solmsstraat 155 in the Bezuidenhout quarter of The Hague, near the Haagsche School Vereniging International Department on the Koningin Sophiestraat.

The non-profit organization Lighthouse Special Education provides special education in English to children with special needs within a mainstream setting, as well as pre-school education in English. The need for a structured pre-school group was established in discussion with the HSV, because they are only able to accept children into the International department in the September after they become 4 years old. This means that many 4 year olds are not yet able to attend school, even though they are school-ready. “Three Little Ships” is able to meet their need.

Mission Statement

“Three Little Ships” aims to accommodate children, with and without special needs, from the international expatriate community, so that they can all develop in an optimal way. To achieve this “Three Little Ships” offers a structured curriculum with the emphasis placed on socio-emotional safety, individual development, social competence and the transfer of norms and values. The foundation of the pre-school is based upon the vision that integration of children with special needs with typically developing peers is important to achieve the best personal development of both groups of children.

Vision Statement

Pre-school days in “Three Little Ships” are followed in a climate of security and respect for one another. Much attention is paid to social interaction and to creating a positive work-, play- and learning environment. Children are encouraged to make independent choices of activities and in this way drive their own individual development. Within our secure environment we accept and respect children the way they are. We recognize each student as a unique person and we show this by emphasizing the importance of tolerance and acceptance, communication and trust, individual attention and support, challenge and encouragement, and by creating the opportunity for positive experiences.

Curriculum and organization

The school offers an excellent Early Years play-based curriculum in accordance with the early learning goals of an International curriculum for children from 3 to 5 years old. This program is designed to slot into the curriculum of the International schools. If your child enters the school not speaking English, he/she will have the advantage of learning English in a small environment before entering formal education. The group is taught by English speaking staff, experienced in leading playgroups and International pre-school education, with a ratio of one adult to 6 children. Within the group of 16 children there will be room for 4/5 children with special needs and 11/12 normally developing peers. Such inclusive education has been proven of benefit to all children.

Staff

The role of the staff is clearly of utmost importance for the children's achievement of the educational targets formulated. Staff members provide a feeling of emotional security, offering the opportunity to develop personal and social competencies, norms and values and to learn to respect the rules and agreements of society. All staff members are fully qualified and most have additional qualifications and experience with special educational needs.

Location

"Three Little Ships" is located at Amalia van Solmsstraat 155, in The Hague. The International Department of the Haagsche School Vereeniging is adjacent to the playground. The playground is spacious and equipped with playground apparatus and outdoor toys to challenge and stimulate children's physical and social development. Indoors, the classroom is large, light and well equipped.

A day in "Three Little Ships"

On entering school the children are able to choose between a wide variety of play and developmental activities and materials. There is a structured talking time, music, PE, outside play and lots of opportunities for art. In addition, activities are planned according to various topics. The children are offered fruit, crackers and juice as a snack and they all sit to eat lunch together with the group leaders. After lunch they have a Quiet Time where they lie quietly and look at books to collect themselves for an afternoon of more play and learning. The afternoon may include special lessons such as music or physical education. At home time we hope they have a lot to tell about a happy day at school!

Practical Information

The pre-school runs for the whole academic year, from August to July. The school follows the holiday calendar of the Dutch International schools.

The children will attend school Monday to Friday from 8.45 until 14.30 with the exception of Wednesday when school closes at 12.15.

Enrolment procedure

Interested parents are invited to contact the School for further information. Parents who would like to visit the pre-school may contact the pre-school coordinator by e-mail or telephone at the address below, for an appointment.

Application forms are available from the school. Once a form has been filled out and returned to the school, your child is on the list for a place. Places are offered as they come free during the school year, or in May for the new school year starting the following August. When a place has been accepted by parents, a contract is sent to them. A child's place is ensured once parents have signed and returned the contract and paid the first instalment.

Contribution

Based upon 11 months of payment, the monthly costs will be fixed every year in September and will run for until the following July. No charge is made in August. Payments have to be made in advance before the first of the month.

Health and Safety Protocol

The health and safety of our children is of utmost importance. A yearly health and safety review is carried out by an external company using the Dutch GGD Health and Safety protocol.

A detailed Health and Safety Protocol is included in the Three Little Ships information packet, and is also available on the website. General health information is listed below.

A child is sick when:

- He/She has a fever ($\geq 38,5$ degrees)
- He/She has a contagious (child) illness
- He/She has one or more of the following symptoms:
 1. Continuous vomiting
 2. Diarrhea
 3. Side effects from vaccinations (weepy, listless, generally not well)

We kindly request the parents keep children home 24 hours after having a fever.

We also request that parents pick up their child from school when:

- The child is too sick to join in the daily activities
- If the care of the child's health is too intensive for the teacher to still care for the rest of the class
- If the child's health risk affects the health of the other children as well as his own

Complaint Procedure

Parents and their children are central to our professional services. We strive toward effective communication between staff and parents and encourage you to come to us when you have a concern or complaint. All complaints are considered a valuable source of information regarding the functioning of the organization; they provide feedback which is used to further improve its functioning.

If you have a concern or complaint about a particular staff member, we encourage you to discuss it with them directly. If you are unable to resolve the issue, please contact the Location Leader who will consult with you about how we can improve the situation. A more in-depth complaint procedure can be found in the information packet, and on the preschool website. If you prefer to submit your complaint to an outside body, you can contact the Stichting Klachtencommissie Kinderopvang (Complaints Authority Childcare Association) and the Geschillencommissie Kinderopvang (Disputes Committee for the Childcare).

Inspection

A yearly inspection is carried out by the inspectors of the GGD (Municipality Health Department). The GGD checks that rules, regulations, quality and health and safety conform to those set down by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Welfare. Inspection reports can be found at www.denhaag.nl

“Three Little Ships”

International Pre- School

School address: Amalia van Solmsstraat 155

2595 TA The Hague.

Tel: + 31 70 33 55 6 98

Cynthia Jaeger, Location Leader Three Little Ships and Lighthouse Special Education

e-mail: cjaeger@hsvdenhaag.nl

Esther Houwaard, School Secretary

e-mail: ehouwaard@hsvdenhaag.nl

Website: www.lighthouse.nl
www.threelittleships.nl

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