



# Parent Handbook 2018-2019

Dear Parents,

It is our greatest joy to partner with families in NW Houston to provide excellence in Early Childhood Education. Our teachers and staff are devoted to nurturing your child. We provide the best in Christian education for young children with an emphasis on learning through creative process, free play, thematic centers, music and art. We also implement structured curriculum to support emerging language and literacy skills, phonics, number sense and math skills. We do all of this within the framework of God's truth – the Bible. Our teaching focuses on the heart of children knowing Jesus and being nurtured in the faith. Please let us know how we can serve your family!

Christine Achterkirch  
Director  
Lamb School

### Mission:

Our desire is to partner with families to instill in the hearts of children a love for God's Word and an eagerness to learn. It is our intent to make everything purposeful for the spiritual, social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth of young children.

He gathers the Lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart

Isaiah 40:1

# Your child will learn in many ways...

We will encourage the development of the following goals for your children

## Spiritually

- Understanding God's love for us and for the world
- Understanding God's creation
- Encouraging each child to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

## Socially

- Feeling good about themselves, having confidence, and value their own abilities
- Learning how to treat others with respect, understanding, equality, individuality, kindness and consideration

## Emotionally

- Accepting their own emotions
- Developing the positive emotions of affection, love, happiness, joyfulness and curiosity
- Understanding and appropriately reacting to all emotions

## Cognitively

- Acquiring experiences that involve many different types of materials and activities
- Acquiring learning and problem-solving skills
- Expanding logical thinking skills
- Exploring concepts and information in the immediate world
- Expanding creative and imaginative abilities through make-believe play, art and music
- Expanding language skills through listening and communicating
- Beginning to develop reading and writing skills

## Physically

- Exhibiting age-appropriate balance and coordination skills
- Participating in a range of outdoor and indoor physical activities for fine and gross motor skill development
- Building with various materials (blocks, boxes, etc.)
- Acquiring skills for writing, cutting, and eating
- Comfortably experimenting with clay, finger paint, sand and other media

# Our Programs

## **18 months to 2 Year Olds**

This preschool program is designed for younger children who are experiencing their first separation from home. These classes incorporate Bright Beginnings Bible stories into the day. This curriculum provides Bible-based activity centers and activities that are age appropriate and engaging. In addition, we utilize Frog Street Press songs and books to learn colors and shapes.

What to bring to school:

- An extra change of clothing in a plastic bag (several changes if the child is potty training, please)
- A snack, lunch and water bottle. The snack should be packed separately from the lunch in a baggie and all food items should be easy to eat finger foods that do not present a choking hazard.
- A fireproof nap mat for rest time
- A Special love item for rest (stuffed toy, blanket, pacifier, etc.)

Please label all items that come to school with the child's name. Items for snack and lunch cannot be heated or cooled at school.

## **Three Year Olds**

This preschool program is based on the Bright Beginnings Bible-based curriculum which provides children with activities that utilize their senses to be creative, explore, communicate and experiment in the world around them. Their day is designed for them to be successful through learning centers in an age-appropriate setting. Their schedule incorporates language development, math concepts, practical living, science exploration, art, cooking, and large and small motor development.

The Three-Year-Old classes compliment the Bible-based curriculum with Handwriting Without Tears, Math Their Way and Frog Street Numbers and Letters Curriculum.

Special enrichment classes at this age include:

- CHAPEL: Children will attend chapel once a week to learn simple Bible stories, worship God through songs of praise and participate in activities that correspond with the classroom thematic units.
- MUSIC AND MOTOR SKILLS: Movement activities, rhythm band instruments, finger plays and familiar songs and dances encourage children to develop memory skills. Music is fascinating to children and soothes emotions. It is creative as well as an excellent form

of expression. Children will be exposed to structured movement and hands-on opportunities to develop physical skills.

### **Four Year Olds (Pre-K) & Five Year Olds (Bridge)**

Our Pre-K and Bridge classes also use the Bright Beginning Bible curriculum which is incorporated into thematic units throughout the day and week. Children will participate in teacher led large group activities, small group activities, and independent learning centers focused on math skills, creative exploration, fine motor development, receptive and expressive language acquisition and pre-writing skill development. Handwriting Without Tears and Abeka Phonics are used in this program to prepare students for the kindergarten year ahead.

Special enrichment classes at this age include:

- CHAPEL: Children will attend chapel once a week to learn simple Bible stories, worship God through songs of praise and participate in activities that correspond with the classroom thematic units.
- MUSIC AND MOTOR SKILLS: Movement activities, rhythm band instruments, finger plays and familiar songs and dances encourage children to develop memory skills. Music is fascinating to children and soothes emotions. It is creative as well as a excellent form of expression. Children will be exposed to structured movement and hands-on opportunities to develop physical skills.
- SPANISH: Children enrolled in our five all-day Pre-K and Bridge classes will have a weekly Spanish lesson focusing on conversational skills and simple vocabulary. The class will use songs, games and fun activities to learn Spanish.

What to bring to school (3 year-olds through Bridge):

- A backpack
- A Ziploc bag with a change of clothes (or two)
- A snack for the morning
- A lunch if your child is staying until 2 pm
- A water bottle with your child's name on it
- Three-year-olds will bring a fireproof nap mat for rest time

# Our Policies and Procedures

## REGISTRATION

Lamb School conducts registration in February for the upcoming school year. All children currently enrolled will be required to re-register. An annual registration fee of \$80 is due at the time of registration. In the event a child withdraws from the program and chooses to return within the same school year, a readmission fee of \$50 will be collected to reinstate them in the program.

Please note that forms are to be completed in full and returned to the school office. Staff will be available to receive the packets on or before May 31<sup>st</sup> during normal school office hours. In the event your child's packet is not received by this date, your child's space will be filled from our waiting list. Due to the important information in the enrollment packet, your child will not be allowed to attend school until the packet has been filled out completely and received by the Lamb School office. Each child will need to have been seen by a doctor within the last six months.

Registration and supply fees are required at the time of registration and are non-refundable. These onetime fees are collected to cover administrative costs and supplies incurred during the preparation for the upcoming school year. These fees also cover your child's participation in activities such as in-house field trips, special all school events and for Pre-K and Bridge, student's graduation caps etc. Accounts must be paid in full by the end of the current school year in order to attend the upcoming year.

## WITHDRAWAL

A withdrawal notice kept on file in the office must be signed and dated on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the child your child will be withdrawn. If notice is not given on or before the 15<sup>th</sup>, tuition for that next month must be paid in full.

## SUSPENSION/EXPULSION POLICY

Lamb School provides a safe, peaceful, Christian atmosphere and we reserve the right to dismiss a child who is disruptive to this environment.

## TUITION INFORMATION AND POLICIES

The Lamb School is a non-profit ministry of The MET church. Tuition is vital to our existence as this is our only source of revenue. To provide the highest possible quality care and education for children, the following policies must be maintained:

A \$80 non-refundable Registration Fee is due at the time of enrollment and upon annual registration thereafter. A non-refundable Supply and Activity Fee is due with the completed Enrollment Packet.

Following are the options for paying tuition:

- Tuition is due on the first of each month or may be paid in advance
- A \$10 late fee will be assessed for payment received after the 7<sup>th</sup> day of each month. If tuition is not received by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month, your child will be unable to attend the program until tuition is paid in full or other arrangements have been made in the office.
- Tuition may be paid with personal check, cashier's check, money order or through Automatic Withdrawal.

Tuition is determined according to the schedule contracted for your child and continues whenever a child is absent. There is no credit for scheduled school closings and holidays, illness, or school closings due to inclement weather.

Lamb School is closed the same holidays as Cy-Fair School District. The tuition for the schedule you have chosen will remain the same during holiday weeks.

I understand to withdraw my child, the withdrawal notice kept on file in the office must be signed and dated on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month my child will withdraw. If I do not give notice on or before the 15<sup>th</sup>, I will pay for the next month's tuition.

Requests for schedule changes should be submitted to the office. Those requests asking to reduce the schedule must give a two-week notice. Those asking to increase the schedule will be granted on a space-available basis.

There is a \$25 fee assessed on all returned checks.

Habitual late pick up (after 12:10 pm or 2:10 pm) will result in a \$5 fee per five minutes per child.

Please do not leave payments on the desk to avoid them being misplaced. Please do not place tuition payments in your child's backpack or weekly Take Home Folder. As staff will not be responsible for any tuition payments.

Parents having more than one child enrolled at Lamb School will be allowed a 10% discount on the younger child's monthly tuition.

## SECURITY SYSTEM

The North Access Doors will open during peak hours of drop off and pick up times. During non-peak hours, all doors will be locked and access to the building will be available by

pushing the camera's blue access button located on the brick wall at the far-left door. You will be greeted by someone monitoring the camera and receive access to the building.

Hallway Doors at Lamb School provides keypad access to classroom areas. Doors will be unlocked during peak drop off and pick up times. The keypad lock will require a code to access classroom areas at non-peak hours. Lamb School parents will be given a code at the beginning of the school year by which they may access the hall to the classrooms. Please do not share this code, as only authorized individuals will be given the code for access.

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

It is important that the parent set the tone for a child's school day. In order for your child to benefit from the scheduled activities planned, we encourage you to arrive on time each day. When a child arrives late, it can make his/her transition into the classroom somewhat difficult and cause a disruption to the rest of the class.

Upon arriving at your child's classroom, please knock on the classroom door and wait for a teacher to greet you and your child. This allows every child to be recognized personally without disrupting the classroom routine.

Parents will accompany their children to the classroom using the main entrance to the education building (building E). The Jones Road parking lot is available for Lamb School parents. Parking is also located in the back next to the Toddler Playground. Building E is accessible with covered walking from either parking area. The covered drop off area located at the east entrance is used by other church ministries; we request that parents not park in this area when dropping off or picking up children.

Teachers will be available to accept children beginning at 9:00 am. Afternoon pick up is at 12:00 pm or 2:00 pm depending on the program your child is enrolled in. Children not picked up by 12:10 pm or 2:10 pm will be brought to the office for pick up.

**Picking up your child at the close of the day is as important as prompt arrival in the morning.** Please remember you will incur a late pick-up fee if this becomes habitual.

If someone other than the parent is picking up a child at the end of the school day, the person's name must be included in the Authorization Pick-Up Log located in the school office. This pick-up person will be required to present their driver's license to verify their identity. The state requires the school to keep this information on file for a minimum of 24 hours. Please remember to drive slowly in the parking lot at all times.

## CALENDAR

Lamb School is in session September through May. We follow a modified Cy-Fair Independent School District calendar. Yearly school calendars are provided.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather and/or hazardous road conditions, Lamb School closures will be based on Cy-Fair's decision to close. Please watch the local news stations for announcements of school closings, as well as [met.church/lambschool](http://met.church/lambschool) and

facebook.com/METLambSchool. Once Call notifications will also be sent. Lamb School does NOT make up days due to inclement weather.

## CLOTHING

All items of clothing should be marked with the child's name. Clothing should be comfortable, easy to maneuver for restroom time or diapering, durable and weather appropriate. Closed-toed shoes are equally important. Incidents of injured toes are far less with closed-toed shoes. Due to safety policies, Heely's (shoes with wheels in the soles) are not permitted.

Always send children with an extra change of clothes in their backpack. Some activities may be messy in nature (painting, cooking, gluing, etc.)

Children in the process of being toilet trained should have more than one change of clothing including underwear/pants and socks. Please mark all items with your child's name.

## TOYS

Lamb School has equipped each room with age appropriate activities and learning materials. Please do not allow your child to bring toys from home. They could be lost or damaged and are not easily shared.

## TOILET TRAINING

We will assist you in toilet training your child once you have developed a plan at home. Please make the teaching staff aware of your desire to toilet train in order to provide an easy transition for your child. Our program requires children to be potty trained prior to entering our Older Three's Program. Medical exceptions should be discussed with the office prior to the start of school.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Personal health and hygiene are an important part of our curriculum; therefore, sick children cannot be admitted to school. Any child who becomes sick during the day will be separated from the classroom setting. We will notify you to pick up your child. Your child must be picked up within 1 hour of notification. We will require you to pick up your child with any of the following:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Pink eye
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Chicken pox
- Any other contagious illness.

It may be necessary for you to present a doctor's release for your previously ill child before re-admittance to the school. A communicable disease chart is posted and highlighted by

your child's classroom if your child has been exposed. Children will not be re-admitted for 24 hours after having any of the above illnesses. The health and safety of all students is important to us!

Lamb School does not administer any medication.

## INJURIES

Should a child experience an injury while at school, the teacher will immediately advise the administrative staff. The administrative staff will determine the severity of the injury. If the injury is minor (i.e. scrapes, bumps, bruises, splinters etc.), first aid will be administered. An accident report describing the nature of the injury and the first aid procedure used will be documented. A copy of the accident report will be sent home with the child, and a second copy will be kept on file. Additionally, verbal notification to the parent will be given when the child is picked up at the close of the day.

In the event of a more serious injury, the staff will administer first aid (teachers and directors are certified in CPR and first aid procedures), dial 911 for assistance if necessary, and contact the parents. If the parents cannot be reached, we will contact the physician indicated on the medical card and transport the child to the hospital of the doctor's choice. If neither parents nor doctor can be reached, we will transport the child to the hospital indicated on the Medical Emergency Forms filled out at the time of enrollment. A member of staff will remain with the child until a parent arrives.

## DISCIPLINE

Lamb School strives to be consistent with discipline and guidance of the children. We emphasize understanding the individual needs and development of each child. Often, discipline for inappropriate behavior can be handled with a positive reinforcement, redirection, and problem solving. We feel that it is important for children to learn to be responsible for the consequences of their actions. Our focus is directed toward teaching children acceptable behavior. In the event your child should become very upset after a discipline situation, he or she will be allowed to regroup and regain control before we address the situation again. Should your child be verbally or physically abusive in a persistent manner, you will be contacted for assistance.

Lamb School will not subject any child to unreasonable or cruel treatment, humiliation, abusive language or punishment. In the event we should have repeated behavior concerns that affect the safety of a child or the learning environment of the classroom, (i.e biting, hitting, inappropriate actions, refusal to follow class or school rules), Lamb School will follow the steps listed below of remediation:

- Recorded observation by teacher
- Recorded observation by administrator
- Phone call from teacher

- Phone call from director

If a concern exists after these steps have been taken, the parents will be called by the director to formulate a plan of action with the teacher. Should these steps fail again, dismissal may occur.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

The following chart outlines the required immunizations and number of doses of vaccines that your child must receive to follow the Minimum Standards issued by the Texas Department of Protective & Regulatory Services and the Texas State Health Department.

Should your child receive additional boosters during the school year, please advise us so we may make a notation of the date the vaccine was administered. If your child is unable to receive the necessary immunizations, we must have a written statement from your physician stating the reason for the delay. Otherwise, your child will not be allowed to attend classes until the immunizations are current.

## IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

< 2 months	No vaccines required
By 3 months	One dose each of polio, DTaP/DT/DTP, Hib, hepatitis B
By 5 months	Two doses each of polio, DTaP/DT/DTP, Hib, and hepatitis B
By 7 months	Three doses of DTaP/DT/DTP Two doses each of polio, Hib, and hepatitis B
By 16 months	Three doses of DTaP/DT/DTP Two doses each of polio and hepatitis B One dose of MMR, and Hib
By 19 months	Four doses of DTaP/DT/DTP Three doses each of polio and hepatitis B One dose each of MMR, , varicella, and Hib on or after first birthday
By 25 months	Four doses of DTaP/DT/DTP. Three doses each of polio and hepatitis B. One dose each of MMR, Hib, varicella, and hepatitis A received on or after 1st birthday.
By 43 months	Four doses of DTaP/DT/DTP. Three doses each of polio and hepatitis B. Two doses of hepatitis A One dose each of MMR, Hib, and varicella, received on or after 1st birthday.

## VISION AND HEARING

LAMB SCHOOL is operated in accordance with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, which requires vision and hearing screenings for any child enrolled in a Four-Year-Old or Bridge program. The Special Senses and Communication Disorder Act of 1983 require that all children at the age of four have hearing and vision screening performed by a trained examiner. This screening must have been completed within the calendar year following enrollment in the Four-Year-Old and Bridge program. For your convenience, we will arrange for an examiner to come to the school to administer the hearing and vision screening. Examiners are not employees of LAMB SCHOOL. It is your responsibility to have this

screening performed, whether at the school or by a different examiner. You are responsible for all examination fees incurred for the vision and hearing screening.

If you elect to have the screening performed elsewhere, you must provide a photocopy of the actual test for the visual and hearing acuity to keep in your child's permanent record. Verbal notification will not be accepted.

## PARENT COMMUNICATION

Classroom schedule and weekly lesson plan will be posted outside your child's classroom door. A Parent Board is located in the office and will communicate information about any special activities or events.

Lamb School will publish a weekly newsletter with important dates and information. A monthly calendar informing parents of scheduled activities and events will be in your child's take-home folder for reference.

You will find information at our facebook page and on our website, [themet.church/lambschool](http://themet.church/lambschool). We will also use One Call Now. TEXT ALERT to 22300.

The parents of **18 month - Two-year-old** students will receive a daily report to inform them of their child's daily routine as well as a monthly calendar highlighting special events throughout the month. A Take Home Envelope will come home on Thursdays with your child's work and be returned to school.

**Three-Year-Old - Bridge** age children will be provided with a monthly calendar highlighting special events. You should also expect weekly correspondence from your child's teacher regarding activities in the classroom and learning objectives each week. While in depth conversations regarding your child are not appropriate at the classroom door, your child's teacher will be happy to schedule a time to meet in person or talk on the phone to answer any questions you may have or discuss possible concerns.

Parents may direct questions or concerns regarding the policies and procedures of the school to the director by calling 281-890-4879 or emailing [cachterkirch@themet.church](mailto:cachterkirch@themet.church)

## PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

An ongoing progress report is conducted on each Three-year-old - Bridge preschool child throughout the year. These reports are observation reports and are used as a tool to help the parents see the developmental progress of their child. Parent/Teacher conferences are held in the spring. Parents are encouraged to sign up with their child's teacher for a conference.

## CHILDREN WITH ALLERGIES

In the event your child has a food allergy the following procedures will apply: School office will provide an emergency health care plan that will be kept in the school office. Children needing Epipens, Benedryl, etc. will be given a separate bin specifically for those items, kept

in a locked cabinet in the school office. Children with allergies will need to provide all food for events and parties.

## SNACKS & LUNCHES

Parents will provide a daily snack for their child which will be eaten mid-morning in the classrooms. If a student stays at school until 2 pm, a lunch should also be provided. Lunch should consist of *healthy* finger-foods that your child enjoys and a beverage in the form of a drink box. Lamb School will provide a morning snack if one is forgotten and you will be charged 50 cents. The office will call if a lunch is forgotten so that one can be brought.

## BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are always a special time for the children. The school does not allow student birthday parties in the classroom. However, if a parent would like to provide a special snack to share with classmates, please do so. Children having summer birthdays are encouraged to choose an *un-birthday* day to celebrate during the school year. Please make these snacks as simple as possible. We find that cookies, brownies, or doughnut holes are well received by the children. We will be happy to distribute party invitations to **ALL** classmates.

## SCHOOL PARTIES

Parties for holidays are celebrated throughout the school year. These fun events are made even better when our parent volunteers participate in the preparation. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside the classroom door for parents to choose how they wish to participate. School parties are made all the more special by parent participation and assistance.

## VISITATION

Parents are always welcome to visit or be a part of their child's classroom at any time. Please be sensitive that your visit does not disrupt the classroom routine or environment. We encourage you to volunteer and take an active interest in our school wide activities.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

One of the key factors in the success of any preschool program is the involvement of interested, caring parents. We encourage our parents to volunteer their time as helpers at holiday parties, school wide events, and as "helping hands" when our teachers need extra help cutting/gluing/assembling special projects.

LAMB SCHOOL has a Parent Volunteer Committee that plans and implements special activities and events throughout the school year, such as Rodeo Week and special holiday parties. Several coffees will be scheduled with the Lamb School Associate Director as these events draw close. We would love for you to join us!

## MINIMUM STANDARDS OF TEXAS

Parents may review a copy of the Minimum Standards for Licensed Centers and a copy of the school's most recent licensing inspection report. This information is located in the school

office. Parents may contact the licensing office, the DFPS, child abuse hotline at 800-252-5400, and DFPS website at [dfps.state.tx.us](http://dfps.state.tx.us).

## **Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS)**

Local Childcare Licensing 713-940-3009

### **Lamb School is a Gang Free Zone**

[https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Care/Information\\_for\\_Providers/cclforms.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Information_for_Providers/cclforms.asp)

### **Emergency Evacuation Plan**

In the event we must exit the building, children will be transported in staff vehicles to the student building located at 12903 Jones Road.

## THE MET INFORMATION

**The MET** Administrative offices are open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Our telephone number is 281.890.1900. If you should have any questions, prayer requests, or need information regarding our weekly schedule, please feel free to call.

## How to Recognize Child Abuse/Neglect

**Required Staff Training: Lamb School Staff are trained annually in recognition of child abuse and neglect.**

### **Methods for increasing awareness and warning signs of abuse and neglect:**

There are four major types of child maltreatment: physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.

**Physical Abuse** is physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child, or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the child. The physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) can result from punching, beating, shaking, kicking, biting, throwing, stabbing, hitting, burning, choking, or otherwise harming a child. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caretaker intended to hurt the child.

### **Suspect Physical Abuse When You See:**

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns without adequate explanations
- Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury
- Burns or bruises in unusual patterns that may indicate the use of an instrument or human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Aggressive, disruptive, and destructive behavior
- Passive, withdrawn, and emotionless behavior
- Fear of going home or seeing parents

- Injuries that appear after a child has not been seen for several days
- Unreasonable clothing that may hide injuries to arms or legs

**Neglect** is failure to provide for a child's basic needs necessary to sustain the life or health of the child, excluding failure caused primarily by financial inability unless relief services have been offered and refused.

**Suspect Neglect When You See:**

- Obvious malnourishment
- Lack of personal cleanliness
- Torn or dirty clothing
- Stealing or begging for food
- Child unattended for long periods of time
- Need for glasses, dental care, or other medical attention
- Frequent tardiness or absence from school

**Sexual Abuse** includes fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution or producing pornographic materials.

**Suspect Sexual Abuse When You See:**

- Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases
- Evidence of injury to the genital area
- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a certain sex
- Sexual comments, behaviors or play
- Knowledge of sexual relations beyond what is expected for a child's age
- Sexual victimization of other children

**Emotional Abuse** is mental or emotional injury that results in an observable and material impairment in a child's growth, development, or psychological functioning. It includes extreme forms of punishment such as confining a child in a dark closet, habitual scapegoating, belittling, and rejecting treatment for a child.

**Suspect Emotional Abuse When You See:**

- Over compliance
- Low self-esteem
- Severe depression, anxiety, or aggression
- Difficulty making friends or doing things with other children
- Lagging in physical, emotional, and intellectual development
- Caregiver who belittles the child, withholds love, and seems unconcerned about the child's problems

Taken from [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)

**Methods increasing awareness:**

Child abuse is a community issue. Every person can help make sure the children of Texas have a brighter future. And preventing child abuse is up to all of us. Child abuse prevention means stopping child abuse and neglect before it happens. The best strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect are to:

- Support families and provide parents with the skills and resources they need.
- Support providers who are serving families by providing tools and resources.
- Create communities that have supportive services in place and shared goal of safety and stability for families.

Taken from [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)

### **Strategies for Coordination between the operation and community:**

Here are some things you can do:

- **Get to know your neighbors.** Problems seem less overwhelming when support is nearby.
- **Help a family under stress.** Offer to babysit, help with chores and errands, or suggest resources in the community that can help.
- **Reach out to children in your community.** A smile or a word of encouragement can mean a lot, whether it comes from a parent or a passing stranger.
- **Be an active community member.** Lend a hand at local schools, community or faith-based organizations, children's hospitals, social services agencies, or other places where families and children are supported.
- **Keep your neighborhood safe.** Start a Neighborhood Watch or plan a local "National Night Out" community event. You will get to know your neighbors while helping to keep your neighborhood and children safe.
- **Learn how to recognize and report signs of child abuse and neglect.** Reporting your concerns may protect a child and get help for a family who needs it.
- Taken from [www.welfare.gov](http://www.welfare.gov)

### **Resources and Actions:**

Child Abuse and Neglect [www.childwelfare.gov/can/index.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/can/index.cfm)

Identifying Child Abuse and Neglect [www.childwelfare.gov/can/identifying/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/can/identifying/) Preventing

Child Abuse and Neglect [www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/)

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect [www.childwelfare.gov/responding/reporting.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/responding/reporting.cfm)

