

The Maplewood Way

Our Mission

At Maplewood Academy, our school motto is “Simul Esse Independens”, which means, “Be independent, together”. With this in mind, our goal is to create a constantly evolving environment in which children are able to develop their inherent curiosity and inquisitive nature through exploration and discovery.

Our mission is to nurture the seeds of individuality, so that they may blossom into trees of charisma and wisdom. Each of our lessons embraces and encourages the creativity in each child, and allows them to explore that creativity in several different ways. The core Language and Math lessons foster basic logical thinking skills, whereas the Arts and Sciences lessons provide the children with opportunities to develop their critical thinking, social and interaction skills, as well as reflect on their individuality. Maplewood Academy offers all of the above in a safe, friendly and nurturing environment where they are free to play and learn with the guidance of our expert early childhood educators.

Our Philosophy

At Maplewood Academy, we hold both care and education to a very high standard. We firmly believe that, given opportunities, each of our students will grow to be **respectful**, **open-minded**, **cooperative**, **adaptable**, **independent** and **inquisitive**. These key traits are built into every lesson, as they are crucial to fostering the critical thinking skills necessary to be successful in every child’s academic career, as well as life in general. Many early education experts have stated that children learn best through play, and Maplewood Academy agrees. We have spent many years developing a curriculum that encourages and spotlights this idea. Here's how:

Growth and Potential

Our classroom environment is purposefully designed to foster a passion for learning and developing oneself. We cater each lesson to develop the lifelong characteristics necessary for each child to be successful.

Academics

Our curriculum is broken down into exciting Themes meant to entertain and educate simultaneously. These ‘big ideas’ serve as a backbone for all of the lessons, which allows the students to focus in on topics that interest them.

Exploration

The different topics that our Themes are built around encourage free-thinking and creativity, which nourishes each student’s individuality. Lessons are crafted so that the students are guided down a path of discovery. This way, they are learning how to find answers for themselves, rather than simply learning the answer itself.

Our Promise

At Maplewood Academy, we strive for excellence. This applies to students, educators, supervisors, custodial staff, administrators, everyone. Through daily, two-way communication, we will ensure all of our families are always up-to-date on everything going on within our centres, and that our educators are

always up-to-date on the specific needs of your children. We support regular visits from various ministries and authorities to ensure we are always following all guidelines and regulations that are expected of us. Maplewood Academy always runs a clean, healthy and safe centre. If you see anything unhealthy, unclean or unsafe, please immediately inform any staff member so that we can remedy this immediately.

Our promise is this; every member of our staff has the same goals and priorities as you, the parent. We want what's best for your children socially, academically and developmentally. We're here for you, and will support your needs in any way we possibly can. We want your child to be the best astronaut ballerina archaeologist superhero the world has ever seen, just like you do. So, come grow with us.

Program Statement

Maplewood Academy is consistent with all of the Ministry of Education's policies and pedagogy. We make reference to, and strictly abide by the following throughout our programming:

- The Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA), 2014
- How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years, 2014
- Ontario Early Years Framework
- Ontario Early Learning Framework
- Think Feel Act: Lessons from Research About Young Children
- Early Learning for Every Child Today

Maplewood Academy uses the CCEYA "How Does Learning Happen" document as a guide to achieve the following:

- i) **Promote the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of the children:** At Maplewood Academy, we firmly believe in a well-balanced, and well-rounded lifestyle. We also believe that this lifestyle can, and should be extended to home life as well. Our educators plan for daily physical activities, both indoor and outdoor, and incorporate these activities into the learning experience. Healthy habits are reinforced daily with all students, as Maplewood Academy holds health and wellness to a very high standard. Personal safety is a topic covered daily as well, as it is discussed during the structured Morning Circle time. The topic of proper nutrition is explored several times throughout the ILE curricular themes, and is reinforced daily during meal and snack times.
- ii) **Support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents, child care providers and staff:** Maplewood Academy promotes an environment in which communication is free and open. This includes dialogue between staff, educators, families and students alike. Positive reinforcement is the most effective method to reach early learners, and children will be introduced to problem-solving techniques to help them self-regulate.
- iii) **Encourage the children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate:**
- iv) **Foster the children's exploration, play and inquiry:** Maplewood Academy uses the ILE curriculum, which focuses on the inherent curiosity in each and every child. This curiosity is used as the driving force when our educators are planning their lessons. Each lesson is crafted as an exploration of a topic rather than a lecture, which encourages

children to feel comfortable asking questions. Children are guided through play, activity and interactive lessons and are shown how to discover answers to their own questions.

- v) Provide child-initiated and adult-supported experiences
- vi) Plan for and create positive learning environments and experiences in which each child's learning and development will be supported, and which is inclusive of all children, including children with individualized plans
- vii) incorporate indoor and outdoor play, as well as active play, rest and quiet time, into the day, and give consideration to the individual needs of the children receiving child care
- viii) foster the engagement of and ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children
- ix) involve local community partners and allow those partners to support the children, their families and staff
- x) support staff, home child care providers or others who interact with the children at a child care centre or home child care premises in relation to continuous professional learning
- xi) document and review the impact of the strategies set out in clauses (i) to (x) on the children and their families