



## CANADIAN ACADEMY

### Early Learning at Canadian Academy

*PK3 to Grade 2 (ages 3 to 8)*

#### **Overview**

Early learning at Canadian Academy is playful, challenging and exciting. Our young learners (PK3 to Grade 2) are inspired through developmentally appropriate experiences. Children investigate, play, explore, and build meaning through their discoveries.

We believe in educating the whole child through innovative and research-based practices in a nurturing environment, encompassing all areas of socio-emotional, physical, and cognitive development. We understand that natural curiosity will lead children to discovery and new ideas. Through inquiry, we encourage children's creativity while supporting the learning of foundational skills, concepts and dispositions along continuums of development.

During these formative years, we understand that learning is also a social act; and therefore, we nurture the children's emerging sense of group and self-identity. Growing and learning in a welcoming environment that respects diversity and celebrates differences, helps children to develop self-confidence, a sense of belonging, a positive social identity, and interpersonal skills.

#### **Play**

Children take part in rich learning experiences through a balance of play and playful learning, relevant to their stages of growth and maturity. In all types and stages of play, children are refining what it means to create, innovate, explore, and develop as active learners. Our learners develop their creativity, learn to be flexible thinkers, and develop social skills. Play, alongside engaging instruction, challenges students with multiple opportunities for cognitive growth to reach a variety of learning objectives.

#### **Image of the Child**

Children are capable, competent, curious and creative. We view children as active collaborators in their learning, with personal interests and strengths. Natural curiosity leads children to discovery and new ideas, which are then nurtured through social interactions and developmentally appropriate teaching.

Our Early Learners are supported as they enhance positive dispositions for themselves as learners. Students are nurtured to become and remain:

- curious
- imaginative
- creative
- self-directed
- responsible
- resilient
- persistent
- empathetic

**Environment**

Stimulating learning environments at Canadian Academy foster positive relationships, communication and independence.

*Space:* at Canadian Academy, we promote the flexible use of spaces based on students changing needs, interests and wonderings

*Time:* both structured and unstructured time of various lengths for investigation and discovery

*Resources:* engaging and organized resources to stimulate thinking including technology, multi-sensory and natural materials both indoors and outdoors

*Atmosphere / Climate:* the nurturing environment of empathy and caring has a positive impact on social and emotional wellbeing and encourages students to continually seek out new challenges

**Community**

Our early learners at CA are a wonderful part of a thoughtful, caring wider school community. Cross-grade collaboration creates opportunities for students to build positive multi-aged relationships. Experienced teachers are facilitators of learning through carefully planned and thoughtful approaches. All adults create nurturing and respectful relationships with students by deeply listening and forming partnerships to co-construct knowledge and experiences, including those identified in the CA curriculum. Parents and caregivers are welcomed as both partners and participants in learning and have a key role in their child's development.

**Embracing Diversity**

The individual learning needs of our young learners including their interests, strengths, prior experiences, language, and cultural backgrounds are valued and acknowledged in order to design effective personalized learning opportunities and experiences.