



Agora Playschool

**Where imagination
meets exploration**

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Introduction to the Agora Method

The Agora Method reflects our commitment to a personalised education that nurtures both mind and heart, preparing children for lifelong learning and growth. We blend the best elements of established educational philosophies like Reggio Emilia, Waldorf Steiner, and Montessori with a modern, flexible approach that meets the needs of today's children.

While these methods have laid important foundations, their focus on child-led learning can lead to inconsistent outcomes and gaps in essential skills. To address this, we balance foundational skill development with a whole-child approach.

Central to the Agora Method is the importance of play, which is integrated into our curriculum as a vital part of the learning process. Through play, children explore, experiment, and make sense of the world, fostering a natural and engaging learning experience.

Theoretical Foundations

The Three Pillars

The Agora Method rests on three foundational pillars: Cognition, Character, and Wellbeing. We believe that fostering these three interconnected aspects is essential for a child's holistic development and future success. Cognition encompasses intellectual growth and the acquisition of crucial skills like language, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Character development focuses on cultivating positive moral, ethical, and social qualities. Wellbeing prioritises the child's physical, emotional, mental, and social health, creating a safe and supportive environment for learning and growth.

An Integrated Approach

Our approach breaks down traditional subject-based silos, connecting learning areas to create meaningful, real-world connections for young children. This integration mirrors how young children naturally explore and learn about the world, promoting engagement, motivation, and a holistic educational experience.



Learning Through Play

Play is not merely a recreational activity but an essential tool for learning and development. Through play, children naturally explore, experiment, and make sense of the world around them. At Agora, we champion the power of play by integrating it into all aspects of our curriculum. This fosters a joyful and engaging environment where children acquire knowledge, develop critical skills, and cultivate a lifelong love of learning.

Age-Appropriate Staging

We tailor our activities to align with each child's developmental stage, ensuring they are appropriately challenged and supported. By considering cognitive, physical, social-emotional, and language development, we create a learning environment that promotes optimal growth and prevents frustration or disengagement. We remain flexible and responsive to individual differences, recognizing that every child develops at their own pace.

Assessment for Learning

We employ a continuous process of observation, documentation, interpretation, and response to gather feedback on student progress. This approach, known as Assessment for Learning (AFL), enables us to personalise learning experiences, identify areas for improvement, and provide targeted support. In our Playschool this is achieved through our monthly passbook. Children receive daily and weekly feedback and choose the activities that are completed so parents can gauge their

involvement with learning.

Practical Implementation

The Teacher as Guide

At Agora, teachers are not just instructors but facilitators and mentors who guide children on their unique learning journeys. They foster strong relationships, understand individual needs, and create a safe and supportive environment for exploration and growth. Teachers personalise instruction, provide constructive feedback, and collaborate with parents, empowering each child to reach their full potential. Not all activities are carried out in large groups, as we allow the children to decide when to complete them, this helps develop autonomy and choice whilst strengthening the teacher's role as a guide to encourage them to explore and try new things.



The Agora Passbook

We provide regular feedback to parents, either daily or weekly, based on your child's attendance. This feedback is compiled in the Agora Passbooks, which you can take home and review at the end of each month. These insights can help you make informed decisions about your child's frequency of attendance and preferred activities. In turn, this valuable information empowers our teachers to tailor their approach to each child, fostering a more engaging and effective learning experience.

Learning Environment

Our playschoolers have the freedom to explore and learn in a variety of engaging spaces, from our multipurpose indoor playspace to the spacious terrace and

dedicated studios. This diverse environment reinforces the idea that learning happens everywhere, can be play-based and fun, sparking curiosity and a lifelong love of discovery.

Use of Technology

We leverage technology to enhance communication and personalise learning. Our Parent app provides real-time updates and facilitates seamless communication between parents and teachers.

The Three Pillars in Practice



Cognition

At Agora, we foster cognitive development through a multi-faceted approach. For example, during a lesson on the *Oranges & Lemons* song, children engage in a hands-on activity creating lemon volcanoes using the acidic juice mixed with baking soda to watch the eruption. Later, they might use drawings or diagrams to represent their understanding, strengthening their ability to connect concrete experiences with abstract representations.

Character Development

Character education is woven into the fabric of our daily activities. During free play, teachers observe and guide children in resolving conflicts peacefully, fostering empathy and conflict resolution skills. Through structured activities like group projects, children learn the importance of cooperation, responsibility, and

respecting diverse perspectives. Feedback in our passbook focused on social and emotional aspects reinforce character development by setting goals related to social and emotional skills, such as taking turns or showing kindness to others.

Wellbeing

We prioritise children's wellbeing by creating a safe and supportive environment that encourages emotional expression and self-regulation. Our daily outdoor play sessions promote physical health and gross motor development, while mindfulness exercises and healthy snacks contribute to overall well-being. By nurturing a sense of belonging and providing opportunities for self-expression, we empower children to develop resilience, self-esteem, and a positive sense of self.

Transition

The Agora Playschool serves as a crucial bridge between home and formal schooling, providing a gentle transition for both children and parents. By observing children's development in a playful setting, we can identify areas of readiness for Preschool, enabling a more tailored and successful transition.

Conclusion

The Agora Method reflects our commitment to providing a balanced, thoughtful education that empowers children to explore, discover, and flourish.

The method nurtures every aspect of a child's growth — intellectual, social-emotional, and physical. We use dynamic learning methods and make effective use of our spaces, innovative tools and strong parent engagement to create an engaging, personalised experience for children, and ensure that they thrive and are well-prepared for the future.

Weekly programme

Day / Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:15am	Free exploration				
8:45am	Activity Stations 1 or 2	Activity Stations 1 or 2	Activity Stations 1 or 2	Activity Stations 1 or 2	Activity Stations 1 or 2
9:45am	Music and Movement				
10:15am	Morning Snack				
10:30am	Magical Music Monday	Terrific Tech Tuesday	Whacky Water Wednesday	Tasty Treat Thursday	Fabulous Fun Friday
11:00am	Activity Stations 1 or 2	Activity Stations 1 or 2	Activity Stations 1 or 2	Activity Stations 1 or 2	Activity Stations 1 or 2
11:30am	Free exploration				

Frequently Asked Questions

Pedagogy & Curriculum

Do you have a bilingual programme?

We do not offer a bilingual programme at present. Our Chinese-speaking members of staff speak in Mandarin when engaging with the children in the play and activity spaces, which exposes and familiarises them to the language.

How do you train your teachers?

We keep all staff up to date on best care and educational practices, including curriculum development and child safety management through a combination of the Agora Training Plan and third-party programmes.

Are your teachers first aid trained?

We have Child First Aiders on site at all times as required by regulations.

How do you help children with their social and emotional development?

Our programme is founded with holistic development as a focus. Learning how to build and maintain connections with others is one of the more important aspects of growing into a successful young adult. We help children navigate the process as well as create the space for them to develop social and emotional capabilities, that we then seek to observe and reinforce.

Practical matters

My 12 month old needs me to be with them as they are very anxious. I am keen for them to do a four-hour block, but not sure they will let me leave them for the unaccompanied section. Do I have to leave?

You may accompany your child to any of the sessions for as long as the session duration. Do note that for the half-day programme, parents are required to attend at least one hour.

Do you provide food and snacks?

Yes, we provide a morning snack after our Core Music and Movement time. It offers a natural break time for the children and gives them energy for the next round of activities. We seek to ensure that all snacks are healthy. Please remember to provide us with information regarding allergies during registration.

How do you clean, and how often do you clean equipment and resources?

All of our equipment is cleaned after usage in accordance with ECDA standards. At the end of each session, it is cleaned and wiped down with disinfectant. We put any resources that have been in children's mouths during the session aside, so that they won't be played with until they have been sanitised.

How do you verify who is allowed to pick up my child?

Authorised persons must be listed in the registration form and introduced to the Head of Early Years and teachers, in person if possible, otherwise by sharing photographs.

What happens if I am running late?

Your child will remain safe under the supervision of Early Years staff. Agora Colearning opens every weekday until 8pm.

Other questions

Can you accommodate children with special needs?

Yes, we can accommodate certain mild or moderate disabilities. Claire Michael, the Head of Early Years, is an ECDA-certified Inclusion Officer (ICO), and our programme is flexible to individual needs. To ensure that we are able to offer suitable support, we recommend a trial period to evaluate and discuss options.

For pricing and programme options?

Please find out more at:

<https://www.agora-colearning.space/preschool-playschool/pricing>

Contact

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HarbourFront Centre Map

