



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, whilst activities that are completed are stamped 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.



Sample passbook

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.

Programmes Offered



Play & Bloom

Suitable for children aged 6 to 15 months

For our youngest Agora members, aged 6 to 15 months, we create a nurturing and engaging schedule full of enriching activities. From gentle music and sensory exploration to water play and gross motor development, each day is designed to stimulate growth and curiosity. Our approach balances flexibility with a comforting routine, adapting to each child's pace while setting clear expectations for parents and children.



Mini-Explorers

Suitable for children aged 15 months to 3 years

For our Mini Explorers, aged 15 months to 3 years, we offer an engaging and dynamic schedule filled with enriching activities. From lively music and tech experiments to water play, sensory exploration, and gross motor development, each day is thoughtfully crafted to nurture curiosity and foster growth. Our approach balances flexibility with a structured routine, adapting to each child's unique pace while providing clear guidance for parents and children alike.

Weekly Schedules

乐开花亲子游戏班 lè kāi huā with Agora

1 to 3 years old

我们的中文亲子游戏班为低龄幼儿打造一个轻松有趣、充满语言互动的环境，在故事与活动中激发孩子对中文的兴趣，为日后的语言学习打下基础。

Our Mandarin Playschool offers a fun and engaging environment for young children, where stories and activities spark their interest in the language and lay a foundation for future Mandarin learning.

Day / Time	星期二 Tue	星期四 Thur
8:45am	音乐互动 Circle Time 和朋友们开心互动，用欢快的中文儿歌开启美好的一天！ Meet friends and start a wonderful day with joyful Mandarin songs!	
9:00am	绘本阅读 Story Time 通过生动有趣的绘本故事，帮助孩子理解中文词汇和句子，激发语言兴趣。 Through fun and engaging picture book stories, we help children grasp Mandarin vocabulary and sentences while inspiring their love for the language.	
9:15am	主题活动 Activity Time 根据绘本故事的内容，我们会做各种有趣的活动，包括美术、精细动作训练和感官活动等，帮助孩子在玩乐中提升各项能力。 Based on the stories, we carry out a variety of fun activities, including art, fine motor activities, and sensory activities, and more, helping children develop multiple skills through play.	
9:35am	跳跳舞，唱唱歌，和朋友们说再见！ A little dance, a goodbye song, and happy waves to friends!	

Play & Bloom with Agora

6 to 15 months old

For our youngest Agora members, aged 6 to 15 months, we create a nurturing and engaging schedule full of enriching activities. From gentle music and sensory exploration to water play and gross motor development, each day is designed to stimulate growth and curiosity. Our approach balances flexibility with a comforting routine, adapting to each child's pace while setting clear expectations for parents and children.

Day / Time			Wednesday		Friday
8:15am	Fine Motor Activity Develop precision and confidence with fun, age-appropriate skill-building tasks				
8:25am	Music and Movement				
8:40am			Whacky Water Wednesday		Fabulous Fun Friday
8:55am	Sensory Activity Engage the senses and spark curiosity through hands-on discovery				
9:05am	Play & Bloom wrap up and snacks				
9:15am	Up to 30 mins Exploration time Encourage creativity and independence through open-ended play				

Play & Bloom with Agora

6 to 15 months old

For our youngest Agora members, aged 6 to 15 months, we create a nurturing and engaging schedule full of enriching activities. From gentle music and sensory exploration to water play and gross motor development, each day is designed to stimulate growth and curiosity. Our approach balances flexibility with a comforting routine, adapting to each child's pace while setting clear expectations for parents and children.

Day / Time	Monday		Wednesday		
4:00pm	Fine Motor Activity Develop precision and confidence with fun, age-appropriate skill-building tasks				
4:10pm	Music and Movement				
4:25pm	Because each of our themed sessions—Magical Music, Terrific Tech, Whacky Water, Tasty Treat, and Fabulous Fun—takes place on specific days, our facilitators expertly mix and culminate activities throughout each session.				
4:40pm	Sensory Activity Engage the senses and spark curiosity through hands-on discovery				
4:50pm	Play & Bloom wrap up				
5:00pm	Up to 30 mins Exploration time Encourage creativity and independence through open-ended play				

Agora Mini Explorers

15 months to 3 years old

Agora Playschoolers enjoy a vibrant schedule packed with activities, from music and tech experiments to water play, sensory, and gross motor development. We balance flexibility with routine, adapting to each child's pace while setting clear expectations for parents and children.

Day / Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:45am	Music and Movement				
10:10am	Morning Snack More than a break time; we combine healthy treats while bonding, building social skills, and teaching meal time etiquette				
10:15am	Magical Music Monday	Terrific Tech Tuesday	Whacky Water Wednesday	Tasty Treat Thursday	Fabulous Fun Friday
10:30am	Sensory Activity Engage the senses and spark curiosity through hands-on discovery				
10:45am	Story Time Fuel imagination and foster a love for reading with captivating tales				
10:55am	Fine Motor Activity Develop precision and confidence with fun, skill-building tasks				
11:15am	Up to 30 mins Exploration time Encourage creativity and independence through open-ended play				

Agora Preschool Transition

1 to 3 years old

Agora Playschoolers enjoy a vibrant schedule packed with activities. After Mini Explorers, our transition children move to the Preschool space and follow the timetable to include thematic learning, literacy, numeracy, mandarin and language & communication skills.

3 or 5 days	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:45am	Music and Movement				
10:10am	Morning Snack More than a break time; we combine healthy treats while bonding, building social skills, and teaching meal time etiquette				
10:15am	Magical Music Monday	Terrific Tech Tuesday	Whacky Water Wednesday	Tasty Treat Thursday	Fabulous Fun Friday
10:30am	Sensory Activity Engage the senses and spark curiosity through hands-on discovery				
10:45am	Story Time Fuel imagination and foster a love for reading with captivating tales				
10:55am	Fine Motor Activity Develop precision and confidence with fun, skill-building tasks				
11:15am	Preschool time Children move into the Preschool class independently and explore either a thematic, literacy, numeracy, mandarin or language & communication lesson. All subjects are covered across the week.				

Agora Extended Day

Our extended day programme, until 4:00pm, is an essential enhancement to any preschooler's day, offering a rich opportunity for children to explore, create, and learn. Through engaging weekly project work, children are encouraged to express their creative skills and ideas, culminating in meaningful take-home achievements. This extended time integrates learning across all domains and subjects, providing a comprehensive and holistic approach to enrichment. By combining fun with intentional learning, our programme supports the development of key skills in a nurturing and stimulating environment.

Day / Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2:00pm	Tea Break & Play After a busy day at school, our children need time to reenergise, and get ready for the exciting activities ahead.				
2:30pm	Activity A and B Engage the senses and spark curiosity through hands-on discovery, see weekly schedule for details				
3:15pm	Activity C Engage the senses and spark curiosity through hands-on discovery, see weekly schedule for details				
4:00pm	Extended day wrap up and home time, or handover to 1:1 teacher				
4:00pm	Activity D/ or 1:1 for ILP targets, and review Children can choose to stay until 6pm and work on Individual Learning Plan targets, including Primary Preparation				

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

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.

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>

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HarbourFront Centre Map

