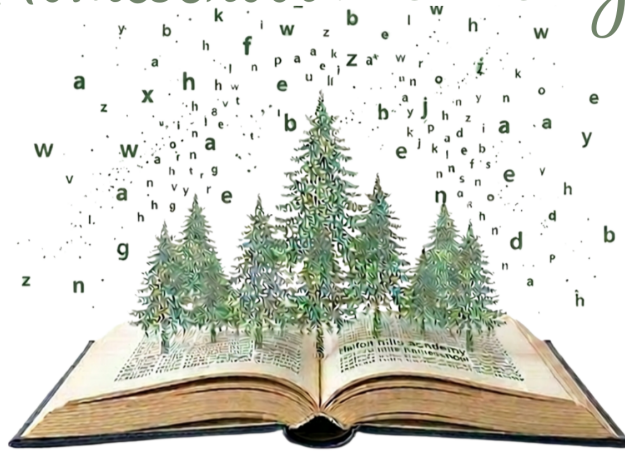


Halton Hills Homeschool Academy



Parent Handbook & Policies

Welcome to Halton Hills Homeschool Academy!

We are honoured to be part of your family's homeschooling journey. Our goal is to provide engaging, enriching learning experiences where children feel safe, supported, and inspired to explore their interests, build confidence, and develop meaningful connections with others. This handbook outlines the policies and expectations that help us create a positive learning environment for everyone.

Inclement Weather Policy

Many of our programs are designed to run in a wide variety of weather conditions because we believe meaningful learning can happen in every season. Rain, snow, mud, and changing temperatures are often part of the outdoor learning experience.

The safety and well-being of our participants will always be our highest priority. In the event of severe or inclement weather that may compromise the safe operation of a program—including, but not limited to, lightning, high winds, extreme temperatures, air quality

concerns, severe weather warnings, or other hazardous conditions—Halton Hills Homeschool Academy reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to:

- modify planned activities;
- reduce program hours for the affected day; or
- cancel the class.

Families will be notified as soon as reasonably possible of any changes to the program schedule.

While every effort will be made to deliver the full program as scheduled, weather conditions are beyond our control. Should more than one class be cancelled or substantially modified due to inclement weather during a program session, Halton Hills Homeschool Academy may, at its discretion, offer either a make-up class or a credit toward a future program.

Managed Risk in Outdoor Learning

Many of Halton Hills Homeschool Academy's programs incorporate outdoor and nature-based learning experiences. We believe that opportunities to explore, problem-solve, take appropriate risks, and interact with the natural world help children develop confidence, resilience, independence, and sound decision-making skills.

Rather than eliminating all risk, our educators carefully manage it. Activities are thoughtfully planned, age-appropriate, and supervised to provide children with meaningful challenges while maintaining a safe learning environment.

Depending on the program, children may encounter natural features such as uneven ground, mud, sticks, rocks, water, insects, changing weather conditions, or tools used under direct supervision. These experiences are an intentional part of many of our programs and contribute to children's growth, confidence, and connection with the outdoors.

We ask families to recognize that while every reasonable precaution is taken to promote safety, participation in learning experiences may involve an inherent level of managed risk that cannot be entirely eliminated.

Campfire & Fire Safety

Some of Halton Hills Homeschool Academy's programs may include campfires as part of the learning experience. Campfires provide opportunities for hands-on learning, outdoor cooking, community building, and developing practical outdoor skills.

Before participating in any campfire activities, children will be introduced to age-appropriate fire safety expectations. These include, but are not limited to:

- walking carefully around the outside of the fire pit;
- maintaining a safe distance from the fire unless invited closer by an educator;
- no running, roughhousing, or horseplay near the fire area;
- placing only educator-approved items into the fire under direct supervision; and
- never removing anything from the fire.

When appropriate for the program, children may be invited to cook food over the fire under the direct supervision of an educator. Participants in our Youth L.E.A.D.ers program may also have additional opportunities to develop safe campfire skills and outdoor leadership.

Campfires are continuously supervised by staff. Participation is always optional. Fires will only be lit when conditions are safe to do so and when permitted under local fire regulations and any applicable burn restrictions.

Safety is our highest priority, and all campfire activities are planned with careful consideration of weather conditions, fire regulations, and the age and readiness of participants.

Behaviour Expectations

At Halton Hills Homeschool Academy, we strive to create a learning environment where every child feels safe, respected, and supported. We believe children thrive when they are treated with kindness, given clear expectations, and encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and those around them.

Many programs include experiences that require children to listen carefully and respond appropriately to educator direction, particularly when safety is involved. Whether indoors or outdoors, it is essential that participants are willing and able to follow instructions that ensure the well-being of themselves, other participants, and staff.

Children are always given age-appropriate explanations and supported with reminders, encouragement, and redirection whenever possible. If a child is unable or unwilling to follow a safety-related direction after it has been clearly explained, they may be asked to step away from the activity with an educator until they are ready to participate safely. Once they demonstrate readiness, they will be welcomed back into the activity.

Our goal is never to punish, but to support children in developing responsibility, self-regulation, and the skills needed to participate safely and successfully.

In the uncommon event that a child's behaviour consistently compromises safety despite reasonable support and intervention, Halton Hills Homeschool Academy reserves the right to

contact parents to discuss strategies for success. If safe participation cannot be maintained, the Academy reserves the right to withdraw the participant from the program. Any such decision will be made thoughtfully, respectfully, and only after reasonable efforts have been made to support the child's success.

Media Consent

Throughout programs, photographs and occasional videos may be taken to celebrate learning, document activities, and share the experiences of our Academy community.

With consent during registration, Halton Hills Homeschool Academy may use images or videos of children in:

- the Academy website;
- social media platforms, including Instagram;
- newsletters and email communications;
- promotional and marketing materials;
- other Academy publications.

No child's full name or identifying information will be published alongside images without additional permission.

Parents who do not wish for their child to appear in photographs or videos may indicate this during registration or notify us in writing before the program begins. We will respect these preferences.

Attendance & Absences

If your child will be absent from a scheduled class, please notify us as soon as possible by posting in the Parent Chat or by sending Rachel a text message at **647-668-4025**.

Prompt communication helps us plan activities and ensures we are aware of each child's status during programming.

Food & Allergies

To support the safety and well-being of all participants, families are required to clearly disclose any serious allergies on the registration form. This includes, but is not limited to,

food allergies, environmental allergies, and any medical conditions that may require attention during program hours.

Upon enrollment, parents are also asked to directly email Halton Hills Homeschool Academy with detailed information regarding their child's allergies so that this information can be carefully reviewed and shared with staff as needed.

At the beginning of each program session, food-related guidelines and restrictions are reviewed and updated based on the current cohort of registered participants. For example, if no children in a session have nut allergies, nut products such as peanut butter may be permitted. If an allergy is present, appropriate restrictions will be implemented for that specific group.

We appreciate families' cooperation in providing accurate and up-to-date information so that we can maintain a safe environment for all children.

Illness Policy

The health and well-being of all participants and staff is a priority at Halton Hills Homeschool Academy.

We ask that children remain at home if they are unwell, including but not limited to symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rash, or signs of a contagious illness.

Children should also remain at home if they are not well enough to fully participate in program activities, including movement, group interaction, and outdoor or physical engagement.

If a child becomes ill during a program, parents will be contacted and asked to arrange prompt pick-up.

Children may return when they are symptom-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) and well enough to participate comfortably.

Emergency Medical Care & Authorization

In the event of a medical emergency, Halton Hills Homeschool Academy will take all reasonable steps to contact the parent or emergency contact listed on the registration form.

If immediate medical attention is required and a parent or guardian cannot be reached, staff are authorized to seek emergency medical care, including calling emergency services (911) and/or transporting the child to the nearest medical facility as deemed necessary.

By enrolling, parents/guardians consent to this authorization.

Parents are responsible for ensuring all medical information is accurate and up to date.

All medical expenses are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Halton Hills Homeschool Academy will act in good faith and in the best interest of the child in any emergency situation.

Missed Classes & Refund Policy

Halton Hills Homeschool Academy is a small, family-run business. Program fees reflect the reservation of your child's space and cover staffing, materials, planning, and preparation completed in advance.

For this reason, refunds, credits, or make-up classes cannot be provided for absences, regardless of reason.

We appreciate your understanding and support of our small business as we strive to provide meaningful learning experiences for homeschooling families.

Liability Waiver, Assumption of Risk & Parent Acknowledgement

At Halton Hills Homeschool Academy, we are committed to providing enriching educational experiences in a safe, supportive, and well-supervised environment. While every reasonable precaution is taken to promote the health and safety of participants, parents and guardians acknowledge that participation in Academy programs involves inherent risks that cannot be completely eliminated.

Depending on the program, participants may engage in activities including, but not limited to:

- outdoor exploration;
- nature-based learning;
- walking on uneven terrain;
- hiking;
- climbing over natural obstacles;
- water and mud play;
- campfire activities;
- supervised use of age-appropriate tools;
- cooking activities;
- science experiments;
- physical games and movement activities;

- field trips; and
- other educational experiences appropriate to the age and nature of the program.

These activities may involve risks including slips, trips, falls, cuts, scrapes, insect bites or stings, contact with plants, changing weather conditions, smoke from campfires, minor burns, allergic reactions, and other injuries that may reasonably occur despite appropriate supervision and safety practices.

Parents and guardians acknowledge that they understand these inherent risks and voluntarily choose to allow their child to participate.

Halton Hills Homeschool Academy agrees to exercise reasonable care in planning activities, supervising participants, maintaining equipment, and implementing appropriate safety procedures. However, no activity can be made entirely risk-free.

By enrolling a child in a Halton Hills Homeschool Academy program, parents/guardians acknowledge that they:

- have read and understand this Parent Handbook & Policies;
- understand the nature of the activities offered;
- understand and voluntarily accept the inherent risks associated with participation;
- authorize Halton Hills Homeschool Academy staff to seek emergency medical care for their child if they cannot be reached;
- understand that they are responsible for providing accurate and current medical, allergy, and emergency contact information;
- agree to follow all Academy policies outlined in this handbook;
- understand that program activities may vary based on weather, participant needs, location, and educator discretion;
- understand that photographs and videos may be taken and used only in accordance with the media permissions selected during registration; and
- understand that refunds for participant absences are not available.

Parents and guardians further acknowledge that they have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding Academy policies and program expectations before enrolling their child.

Registration in a Halton Hills Homeschool Academy program constitutes acknowledgement and acceptance of the policies outlined in this handbook.