

WE ARE



OAK BRIDGE

ACADEMY



WHERE SUCCESS IS PRESUMED AND ACTIVELY PURSUED

Welcome to Oak Bridge Academy!

Providing **specialized education to exceptional learners** with the **core foundation** of promoting **behavioural flexibility.**



www.oakbridge.ca

The Oak Bridge Approach

- I AM AWARE
- I AM CALM
- I KNOW MY GOALS
- I AM READY TO LEARN
- I CAN DO ANYTHING
- MY THOUGHTS ARE CLEAR
- I ACCEPT MY FEELINGS

Oak Bridge Academy is an alternative school structured around the principles of **Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)** designed specifically for children with neurodevelopmental disorders. ABA focuses on the principles that explain how learning takes place. It is a scientifically validated approach to understanding behaviour and how our behaviour is affected by the environment. The **core principles** of behavioural science used at Oak Bridge Academy **include contingency management, goal setting, self-regulation, mindfulness, and Acceptance and Commitment Training (ACT)**. Each of these principles, when used in combination, contribute to **developing a resilient and flexible student**.



Our Mission and Philosophy



Our mission is to provide **specialized education** to **exceptional learners** with the core foundation of **promoting behavioural flexibility**.

We provide services for children with autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, and other related learning exceptionalities. Full-day, ten month (September to June) programming with high teacher-to-student ratios is offered to children at both the elementary and secondary levels.

OBA provides a **blended therapeutic and academic setting** grounded in **evidence based practices**.

- Highly specialized education tailored to the individual student
- Effective behavioural intervention embedded in all programming
- Enhanced social skills programming throughout the day

Our goal is to provide students with the **tools** they need to **flourish** academically, socially, and emotionally.





KATHIE SHAW

MSW, RSW, BCBA

PRINCIPAL/FOUNDER

Kathie is passionate about supporting an alternative school in the Waterloo Region. Oak Bridge Academy uses a model that has shown great success in several schools in the USA, following a model by Dr. Mark Dixon. This model uses the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).

Kathie is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA); has been working in the field of Autism and Applied Behaviour Analysis since 1993 and has specifically worked in the field of Intensive Behaviour Intervention since 2000. Kathie is a registered social worker and a member of the Ontario College of Social Workers; is a certified Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) instructor with the Crisis Prevention Institute; has completed training in Acceptance and Commitment Training (ACT) through Wilfrid Laurier University; and has completed Mindfulness-Based Group Practice including Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) through Sunnybrook Hospital.

Kathie believes that in the right environment and with the appropriate supports, all students can and will be successful. Oak Bridge Academy has demonstrated this success year after year.



R2L

Ready 2 Learn

Ready 2 Learn (R2L) is a program designed for a student who is school age ready, but **not ready to be in a classroom**. The goal of this program is to develop the skills required to be successful in a classroom or group setting. R2L offers a **blended therapeutic and academic environment**, using a variety of evidence based practices to support each child in reaching their full potential. In this program, students will participate in group instruction and one to one learning to target individual goals and scaffolding programs to teach core academic skills.



Highlights

- High staff to student ratio
- Registered Behaviour Technicians
- Oversight by in-house Board Certified Behaviour Analysts
- Mindfulness instruction daily with a trained instructor
- Regular communication between parents and the school
- Full day program Monday through Friday
- Integration into a school setting
- Individualized programming
- A focus on social skills
- Access to Speech Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists for assessment and intervention
- Curriculum specialist in house to support academic and program development



ELEMENTARY

Our elementary program has proven to be **effective and impactful** on our students' learning trajectory.



Oak Bridge Academy has tailored its programs for students who learn in unique and non-traditional ways. **Individualized attention** in small groups is what we do best! Each student is assessed in core subjects. Modifications and/or accommodations are implemented according to **a student's need**; whether they are learning above, below, or at grade level. Achievement is **continually monitored** and re-assessed throughout the year.



We follow the Ontario curriculum with individualized modifications and/or accommodations. Specific and **measurable Alternative IEP goals** are provided for more **intensive focus** in areas of need such as decoding, reading comprehension, math skills, and/or written output.

SECONDARY

Oak Bridge High School offers a unique 3-stream approach.

- Specific credit courses at the High School level (OSSD)
- Living Skills program
- Collaborative Program of Living Skills and credit courses

•Our **Ontario Secondary School Diploma** (OSSD) credit courses are designed for students who would benefit from a slower pace than a traditional high school program.



•Our **Living Skills and Work Experience** alternative program focuses on building functional literacy and numeracy skills, social skills, workplace skills, and independence. At the completion of this program students will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

•Our **Collaborative OSSD** program is a **combination** of Living Skills and credit courses that are designed for students who may be capable of achieving an OSSD but would benefit from accessing credits at a slower pace while engaging in some of our Living Skills courses.



SOCIAL EDUCATION

On a **daily basis**, students receive direct **lessons and practices** related to **ACT and Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**. Throughout the day, ACT and SEL concepts are **intertwined in all activities** at Oak Bridge Academy.



Academics is a **core focus** and an important part of each day; **however, mindfulness and working to be flexible** in thoughts and behaviours are the skills and strategies that are **intertwined throughout the day** and incorporated into all learning activities.

TESTIMONIALS

OBA has been life-changing for our family. Without question, it has **changed the trajectory of success for our son**, and we can **see a future full of possibility!** He is immersed in an extremely supportive learning environment, developing **skills of resilience and flexibility** that frankly we can all use, and most importantly has experienced the meaning of true friendships with his classmates. - **Andrew and Melissa V, Parent**



We are grateful to Oak Bridge for discovering our son has dyslexia and then training all staff to **teach how he learns**. They are very supportive and know how to motivate our son to intrinsically want to learn and be proud of his successes and efforts. **His behaviour and interest towards learning has improved dramatically.**
Janet N, Parent

For a parent like myself, OBA has **reignited a dream** I had lost for my son. A dream that he **CAN** one day have a career and be **independent and thrive and live a happy life.**
K.M., Parent





SPECIALIZED PROGRAMING

ASCEND

SMARTER INTERVENTION is a comprehensive, structured literacy program that is used in the classroom with students who require additional reading and writing support through explicit, systematic instruction.

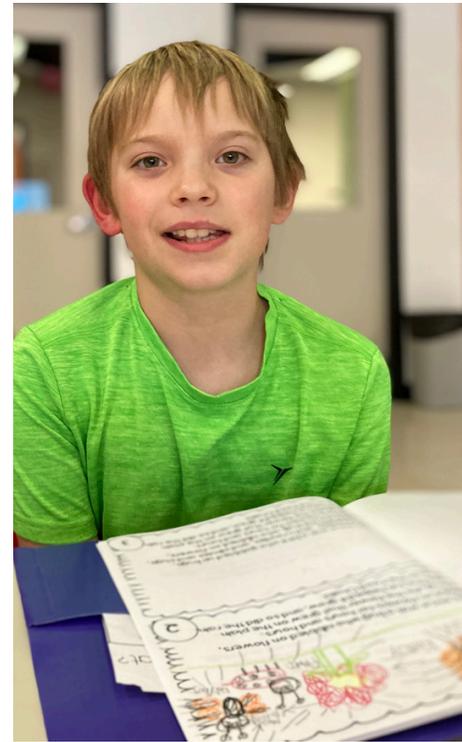


The Orton-Gillingham Approach is a well-respected approach to teaching students with reading deficits. It also encompasses a multisensory approach to reading, whereby you will see students using sight, hearing, touch and movement to connect language with letters and words.



Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum

is a systematic program of daily lesson plans that provide a high level of explicit modelling and student engagement. It includes additional activities to develop letter and sound recognition, introduce the phoneme-grapheme connection and extended language awareness.



TOUCHMATH is a program that is used in specific classrooms for students who have learning difficulties and require additional support with developing mathematical skills.



**DYNAMIC
MATH**

for Grades 3 and up. This program is aligned with the new Ontario curriculum and will include Financial Literacy and Coding.



**Mindful
Schools**

offers specialized services for schools and districts to help build a culture of mindfulness, equity, and well-being. We are currently in the process of becoming a certified mindful school.

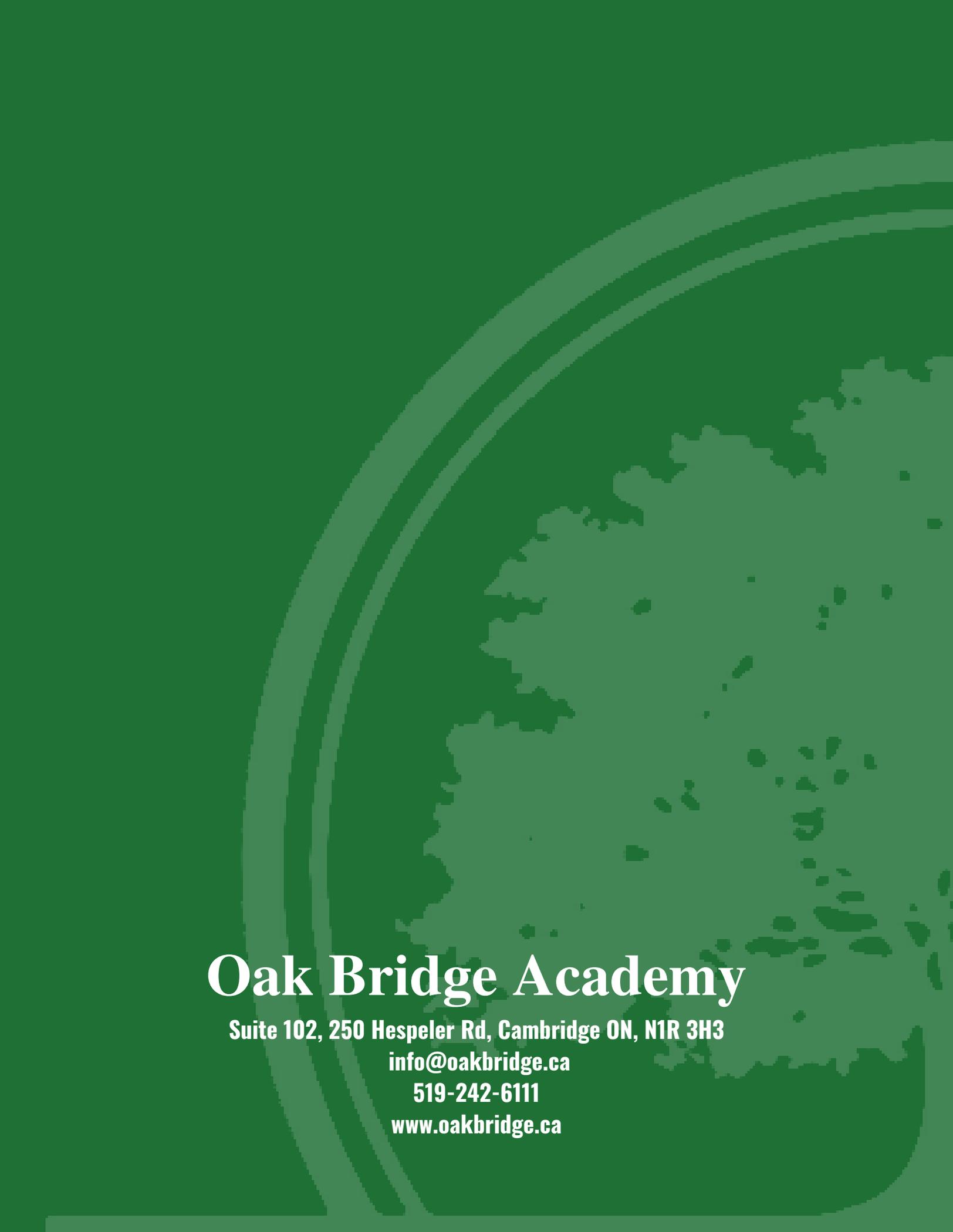
AIM
ACCEPT - IDENTIFY - MOVE

is a dedicated social-emotional program for children and teens. A beautiful blend of mindfulness, acceptance and commitment therapy, and functional behavioral analysis.

Connect

is a Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) well-being curriculum for primary school children. It is a fun, easy to use weekly program that teaches children key skills to promote emotional well-being and resilience.





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