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## FAQ FOR ONLINE LEARNING

### 1. What is Maple Bear Online Learning or Online Classes?

With school, play and class schedules disrupted across different cities the world over, it is very important for us to stay connected with the children. Children are home bound and would love to connect with their teachers and friends virtually. With the Online classes teachers get in touch with the children virtually in small groups. This way continuity in learning is maintained. Children look forward to talking to their friends and teachers.

The Online classes involve active engagement and interaction between the student and teacher on a daily basis. Classes have been prepared keeping in mind the learning outcomes which the children need to achieve by the end of the year. This a regular repetition of earlier work and new learning through games, activities, read alouds and hands on activities involving math, science and language.

### 2. How does Learning actually take place in an Online format?

Our main objective with the online format is ensuring that children are comfortable with the screen format or online learning. Our first step is to achieve familiarity and next step after establishing comfort is the process of learning through play and self discovery. Learning is centred around and through:

- **Games & Activities** like show & tell, mystery box, morning message, drawings, number of the day, experiments etc. done to understand abstract concepts of language, math, science.
- Language skills to support learning English and vocabulary through interactive communication with children, rhymes and story telling
- **Read Alouds** to develop love for reading, encourage creativity and imagination along with language
- Promoting **independence** through activities which emphasise self help
- Providing real life problems and situations for our children to explore in their discussions
- Encouraging them to clarify and ask questions and build on their previous experiences.
- Encouraging them to manipulate and explore with real objects which are easily available at home
- **Social interaction**
- Introducing **concept of community** & giving back
- **Physical health** through exercise, yoga and dance



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### 3. How will Online Classes help my child?

Doing these online classes supports academic continuity. It helps children with the recap of the already taught topics so that when they are back in action the learning gap is not very big.

Active interaction with teachers and students : They answer any questions students have, talk about what activities they have done with the children and did the child enjoy it. They speak to the child, talk about his daily routine, encourage the children to do things which they can do independently at home along with actively learning something new everyday.

- Maintain a routine
- Discipline
- Social interaction
- Maintaining physical and mental health

### 4. How is Maple Bear's Online programme different from other schools

Maple Bear curricular program is modeled upon best practices in Canadian education. It is also based on strong values and principles of learning.

**Our program is designed to educate the whole child – physically, cognitively, emotionally and socially. Maple Bear encourages an environment where risk taking and self-expression are valued.**

By providing flexibility and variety in our classes.

**Maple Bear provides rich, stimulating experiences that encourage the creativity and imagination.**

Through the interesting online discussions and through creative activities that challenge and engage students but do not overwhelm them. We want our students to feel that they are capable and competent learners.

**Maple Bear places a high priority on immersion strategies**

By continuing to have interactive communication with our children in the virtual group sessions. We encourage them to use English as much as possible when talking with friends online.

**Maple Bear places a high priority on Language Arts and in particular the development of a love of reading.**

By reading daily to them using storybooks or the websites that offer books online.



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### **Maple Bear provides programming that is relevant.**

By providing real life problems and situations for our children to explore in their discussions.

### **Maple Bear provides a rich and stimulating program that encourages creativity, imagination and self-expression.**

We encourage students to clarify and ask questions, ask them integrate ideas from their previous experiences, by having them explore and experiment with their environment, by encouraging their unique ideas and by providing them with the strategies that will encourage creativity.

### **Play is important for learning.**

By encouraging children to manipulate and explore with real objects which are easily available at home. We also ensure that the activities we give our children are activity based and engaging.

We have a World Class Education that is designed to engage, challenge and involve students in their learning. We engage children actively, in meaningful tasks, with consistent support and sincere encouragement.

## **5. Why should I pay for Online classes?**

- Maple Bear Online Programme has been designed specifically to suit the online format. We avoid pre-recorded videos and work sheet submissions. Our focus is on **real time interactions** between the teachers and the students. Thus, ensuring that the screen time is mindful and limited.
- All instruction in the Maple Bear Preschool follows educational principles which have made Canadian practice so successful. Outcomes are defined. Learning is targeted to achieve very specific learning outcomes. It is clear what the children need to learn.
- All our Maple Bear teachers have been highly trained to accommodate your child and adapt them to online learning. The teacher to child ratio has become smaller and teaching is done in smaller groups to assure attention is shared individually with each child.
- There has been a massive workforce involved in restructuring the curriculum to suit online learning and ensure that all learning outcomes are met.



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- Our teachers are working long hours to ensure that your children are well adjusted to restart school once the lockdown ends. Parent interactions with teachers has also gone up.
- We are following all Government directives to ensure all staff is looked after and salaries are paid out to all. This is a time where community needs to be put above self. And we are all attempting to make this a collaborative effort towards the leveling the playing field and supporting one and all.

#### **6. My child is too small/young to sit for these classes/Attention span is very less**

Yes, Toddlers and children in Nursery do need parental supervision to sit through the class. However, in these unprecedented times all we ask for is a little time with you to ensure that our children keep making progress. Our teachers are highly motivated and will ensure that this effort to school the child through activities, games etc is passed on with due diligence.

Small children fall into a routine with some effort and time. Ensuring a fixed routine with your child for the classes for a few days will help establish the routine and once the child is used to seeing the teacher and their friends they will start looking forward to the classes.

Children need time to settle into this new routine just the same way they took time to settle in the school. Having patience and not being anxious will help the child settle into the routine eventually. Participation should not be forced. Slowly the child will become familiar and start enjoying the complete class.

#### **7. Both of us are Working from Home and do not have the time to sit for the classes or we do not have a separate device for our child to take the class**

While online classes were not a 100% substitute for the routine ones, learning had to continue in some way during the current circumstances. We are attempting to remodel your home into a site for physical learning but do NOT expect you to take on the role of the teacher. Our teachers are working hard to maintain the real time interactions with your children to ensure learning takes place. Your presence is purely in a supervisory capacity. Your support and patience would be highly appreciated in these testing times.

We will take all measures to ensure that the learning process for your child is unencumbered by your work routines. You can let your school know what are the most feasible times for you and we will try and accommodate the classes at a favourable time as well. This class format can also be conducted through a mobile/laptop/monitor or Ipad. Please feel free to chose any.



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## **8. I'm not comfortable with the screen time my child will have to spend on the classes**

Educational screen time is encouraged and is separate from the other types of activities online. Our Maple Bear teachers are aware of screen limits and they make sure that the lessons fall within them. The Online Classes are real time interactions with teachers hence it is mindful watching rather than mindless viewing which is a pattern that is more likely to occur if a child is not part of a constructive programme.

Moreover, As parents, it is important not to feel guilty or place too much pressure on yourselves about maintaining the screen habits that were present before the pandemic took place. Parenting during the pandemic is a new reality and requires different boundaries such as the type of content being consumed. Also physical activities and education are positive ways to **engage virtually**.

## **9. How do we get materials for the activities?**

The materials are all readily and easily available at home as the class structure is designed specifically for the ease and comfort for all involved. Books and other materials are delivered at home or can be picked up at a time convenient from the school premises.

## **10. What platform will be used since we are not comfortable with Zoom**

Our teachers are trained in using all platforms available for online learning. The choice of the platform is usually left up to the school's discretion. Skype, Google meet, Jiomeet are all suitable.

## **11. What if my child misses a class**

If a class is skipped, a convenient time for the child and school can be discussed and held to ensure that there are no gaps in the process of learning.

## **12. What are some tips for parents to assist with online learning**

### **Limit distraction**

A "digital quarantine" might be necessary to keep your child's attention focused on their schoolwork. You should limit their use of their devices, other than what is needed to complete their work. If you choose, you can allow your child to play on a device but make them aware that they only have a limited amount of time until they need to get back to work.



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### **Make space for learning**

Many adults have a specific area of the home in which they do work, and it's important that you create a similar space for your child. Your children will achieve their best work in a quiet, comfortable, and dedicated space that is strictly devoted to learning. This space should be a different set-up than where they normally play games or watch television.

### **Allow them to interact with friends via video chats**

Your children are used to lots of social contact at school, so they will definitely feel the effects of being distanced from them even after a few days. Video chats are a great way to get in social time without endangering yourself or others.

### **Don't underestimate the power of a schedule**

If you and your children are all doing work from your home, it's likely that this is the first time that has ever happened. A schedule, for your work and your child's work, is extremely important. To start, experts recommend keeping them on the same or similar sleeping schedule that they have when they are going into school. Having a clear vision of what is expected of your child will help them see that just because they are home does not mean they don't have work to do.

### **Don't let your children treat this as a vacation**

This time at home might feel like a vacation for your child, but it's important to remind them that their education still comes first.

### **Remember to schedule time for fun**

While this is most certainly not a vacation, it's important to have some fun with your children while they are at home. It's rare that you have this much time with your children, so use it as an opportunity to bond. Experts at Children and Screens recommend organizing a tournament, family card games, charades, or chess, or getting outside for a hike or walk together.