



Parent Handbook

2025

www.neubloom.ca

Welcome to NEUBLOOM

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Neubloom - a space where all children are valued, respected, and supported in ways that reflect who they truly are.

Neubloom was founded with a clear purpose: to reimagine education so that it genuinely works for the wide range of learners in our community. We recognize that not all students thrive in traditional environments. Whether a child is neurodivergent, highly sensitive, academically advanced, struggles with regulation, or simply learns in ways that don't fit the mold, they deserve a setting that meets them where they are.

At Neubloom, we honour learner variability. We lead with relationships, prioritize well-being and connection, and create programming that adapts to the individual rather than expecting children to adapt to the system.

We know the current model leaves too many kids behind and we believe families deserve options. Neubloom exists to fill that gap, offering an environment rooted in compassion, flexibility, and meaningful growth.

Thank you for being here. Whether you're just exploring or already on this journey with us, we're glad you've found us.

Warm regards,



Jodie Buttigieg

President & Director, Neubloom

Our Philosophy

At Neubloom, we believe that every child is capable, curious, and deserving of an education that reflects their unique strengths, needs, and potential. Rooted in a neuro-affirming framework, our philosophy embraces the full spectrum of learner variability, recognizing that differences in how children think, communicate, and process the world are not deficits, but important expressions of diversity.

We honour each student's identity and autonomy by creating an environment where relationships, safety, and belonging come first. Our approach blends the content of the Ontario curriculum with flexible, interest-led, and developmentally appropriate practices that support all learners, not just those with diagnosed needs. We focus on strengths, value communication in all forms, and prioritize emotional well-being alongside academic growth.

At its core, Neubloom exists to challenge the one-size-fits-all model of education. We are building a school community where all children are seen, heard, and supported as they bloom into their full potential.

Our Mission

At Neubloom our mission is to create a safe, inclusive, and empowering educational environment where all learners alike can thrive through connection, hands-on learning, and a strength-based neuro-affirming approach.



Our Promises

At Neubloom, we are committed to building a learning environment that is neuro-affirming and rooted in respect, and inclusion.

These three promises guide everything we do:

We promise to honour learner variability.

We recognize that every child has a unique way of thinking, communicating, and engaging with the world. Our approach is neuro-affirming, inclusive, and strength-based. We do not ask children to change who they are to fit into the classroom, we adapt the classroom to meet their needs.

We promise to prioritize belonging and safety.

We believe that all learning begins with connection. Our environment is built on trust and relationships. We foster a culture where students feel seen, heard, and valued for exactly who they are.

We promise to offer meaningful, flexible learning.

Our programming honours the diverse strengths, interests, and pacing of each learner. We centre real-world learning, curiosity, and accessibility to ensure every student can grow in ways that matter to them.

Our Location

Neubloom is proud to be located within **Western University's Research Parks in the Mogenson Centre at 100 Collip Circle**, a bright, thoughtfully designed space that supports learning, regulation, and connection.

Our learning environment includes:

- Bright, natural-light-filled rooms as well as low-stimulation spaces with minimal or no light to meet a wide range of sensory needs
- Access to a secure, enclosed courtyard and nearby green spaces for movement, exploration, and outdoor learning
- A LEED® Gold certified building, reflecting our commitment to sustainability and wellness
- Free parking for families
- 24/7 on-site security to ensure safety and peace of mind

Our central location in London, Ontario, makes Neubloom easily accessible to families across the city and surrounding areas. It's a place where students can feel safe, supported, and inspired every day.



Photo Credit: Western Research Parks. (2024). Mogenson Centre.
<https://www.westernresearchparks.ca/the-mogenson-centre-at-western-discovery-park/>

Board of Directors

As a registered non-profit, Neubloom is guided by a dedicated Board of Directors who provide oversight, strategic direction, and accountability. Our three-member board brings diverse expertise and a shared commitment to inclusive, student-centered education. Their leadership ensures that Neubloom stays true to its mission and operates with integrity, transparency, and purpose.

President & Chair

Jodie Buttigieg, BA, BEd, OCT

Jodie is an educator with over a decade of experience in both Canadian and international school systems. She has worked across multiple school boards, bringing a deep understanding of inclusive education, learner variability, and systemic challenges.



Vice President

Ashley Amicarelli, MA, RP

Ashley is a Registered Psychotherapist, Clinical Supervisor, and the founder of Thrive Psychotherapy London, where she offers trauma-informed, relational care to youth, adults, and families.



Secretary Treasurer

Nicole Camilleri, BA

Nicole holds her registration as a Social Worker in Malta and specializes in disability support and person-centered care. She brings her expertise to her current role working with youth in London.



Our Team

Jodie Buttigieg

Director & Lead Educator

Jodie brings over a decade of experience in education, with a diverse background spanning international and local teaching roles. She spent three years in Sweden as Head of the Math Department at IES Karlstad, where she focused on making curriculum content more accessible and engaging for all learners. In Canada, she has taught in both the Grand Erie and Thames Valley District School Boards, and also worked with JA Canada designing inclusive, accessible programming for students across the country.



With special education qualifications and extensive experience supporting neurodivergent students, Jodie is passionate about creating learning environments that celebrate each child's unique strengths. Frustrated by the limitations of the public education system, she founded Neubloom to offer a more responsive, inclusive, and empowering approach to education.

Kailyn Cozad

Educator

More information to come...





Specialists

At Neubloom, we are actively building connections with a variety of specialists within the community to provide on-site services that support the diverse needs of our students. These may include therapeutic supports such as speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, mental health services, and more.

All services will be delivered by the providers themselves and billed directly to families or their insurance plans. Neubloom is committed to working collaboratively with these professionals to support each child's development.

We are also more than happy to partner with any existing service providers your child already works with. Our goal is to create a cohesive, supportive environment that truly meets the needs of every learner.

Operations

Neubloom operates **Monday through Friday, from September to June**. Our academic calendar will align as closely as possible with the local public school calendar to ensure consistency for families. The school day runs from **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**.

Before and After School Care

We offer before and after school care from **8:00–9:00 AM and 3:00–5:00 PM** for an additional fee. These spots are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Please reach out as soon as possible.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Drop-off and pick-up will take place at our suite in the Mogenson Centre. A member of our team will greet each student at the door and escort them into the classroom to ensure a smooth and supportive transition. For safety and security, only individuals listed as pre-approved on your child's file will be permitted to pick up.

Please note that drop-off and pick-up are busy times for staff, and we ask that longer conversations or questions be scheduled for a separate time. Free parking is available onsite. To maintain traffic flow and ensure all children are picked up in a timely manner, we kindly ask that families keep pick-up as efficient as possible.

Parents and guardians should arrive on time and wait at the designated entrance area while staff bring children out. This helps maintain a calm and focused classroom environment.

Operations

Absences, Appointments & Vacations

We ask that families inform us in advance of any scheduled appointments, extracurriculars, or planned absences. We recognize the importance of mental health days and family time, and encourage open communication about these needs. If time is taken outside of Neubloom's scheduled closures, regular fees will still apply for missed days.

Please note that we cannot accommodate on-site appointments during field trips.

Emergency Closures

In the rare event of a weather-related or emergency closure (e.g., unsafe travel conditions or power outages), families will be notified via email by 7:00 AM.

Field Trips

At Neubloom, we believe that meaningful learning can happen beyond the classroom. From time to time, our educators and learners head out into the community for enriching, day-long field trips.

Field trips will be communicated to families well in advance, and participation is always optional. Written consent from a parent or guardian is required for a child to attend any off-site experience. Additional costs, such as entrance fees or transportation, may apply depending on the destination.

We welcome volunteers on select field trips! If you are interested in joining us, a volunteer form and up to date Vulnerable Sectors Check request form be sent out prior to the event. While volunteering is appreciated, it is not required to participate in our programs.

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Programming

At Neubloom, our programming is intentionally designed to be neuro-affirming, inclusive, and rooted in the belief that every child deserves to learn in a way that honours who they are. Our small class sizes, maintaining a ratio of at least 1 teacher for every 5 students, allow us to provide highly individualized attention and build meaningful relationships with each learner.

We follow the Ontario Curriculum, but we do so in a way that is responsive to each child's needs, strengths, and interests. This means that rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach, we adapt our learning environment and teaching strategies to match how your child learns best. Our strength-based approach means we focus on what your child can do and build from there, using their natural interests as an anchor for deeper learning.

Our days are rich with hands-on, project-based experiences that are relevant, engaging, and often rooted in the real world. Outdoor learning plays a significant role in our programming, we believe the natural environment is a powerful teacher, and we use it regularly to support learning, regulation, and exploration.

We also understand that academic skills are just one part of a meaningful education. That's why life skills, such as emotional regulation, collaboration, communication, and self-advocacy, are intentionally included in everything we do.

Our programming is dynamic and evolves with the children we serve. We design our days around the learners in front of us, co-creating learning experiences that are developmentally appropriate, inclusive, and joyful.

We offer both full-time and part-time enrollment options to best meet the needs of your family. To ensure a smooth start, we also plan for a transitional period at the beginning of the year. This allows us to support your child in getting to know the space, the routines, and the people at their own pace.



Educational Planning

At Neubloom, we believe every child deserves a learning plan that is as unique as they are. Our approach to educational planning is rooted in flexibility, collaboration, and neuro-affirming practices. We blend group and individual instruction to meet the needs of each learner while maintaining a low student-to-teacher ratio to ensure each child receives the support and attention they need to thrive.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

We use Individual Education Plans (IEPs) as a tool to support students in achieving their goals. These plans are created collaboratively with families, educators, and, when appropriate, the learners themselves. Our IEPs are dynamic documents that evolve with your child's progress, needs, and interests, and they guide both instructional planning and accommodations.

Group and Individual Instruction

Instruction at Neubloom is thoughtfully balanced between small-group and one-on-one learning experiences. Group instruction promotes collaboration, communication, and social learning, while individual instruction provides space for focused skill development and personalized learning pathways. This flexible model allows us to adjust based on the needs and strengths of our students.

Feedback Over Letter Grades

At Neubloom, we believe that meaningful feedback empowers learning more than traditional letter grades. Rather than focusing on marks, we prioritize descriptive feedback that helps learners understand their progress, celebrate their strengths, and identify their next steps. This approach fosters a growth mindset and supports deeper engagement in learning. Collaboration with families throughout the year.

Educational Planning

Data Collection and Reporting

We use consistent, respectful, and meaningful data collection to monitor learner progress. This includes observational notes, work samples, and individualized goal tracking. Our data is not used to label or limit students but to better understand how they learn and to inform how we can support them. Families receive regular progress updates and summaries of learning in clear, accessible language.

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

We believe in strong, respectful partnerships with families. Throughout the year, we offer 4 official parent-teacher-student conferences. These conferences provide an opportunity to reflect on progress, share insights, and plan together for what's next. We also welcome ongoing communication and collaboration with families throughout the year.



Photo Credit: Western Research Parks. (2024). Mogenson Centre.
<https://www.westernresearchparks.ca/the-mogenson-centre-at-western-discovery-park/>

Tuition & Fees

Neubloom operates as a not-for-profit learning environment. Tuition is set with the goal of keeping costs as low as possible while ensuring high-quality, individualized programming. All fees go directly toward staffing, programming, and resources that support our students' learning and well-being. We offer flexible payment plans to accommodate families' needs.

Below are the tuition schedules for the 2025-2026 school year:

Full-Time Program Payment Plans

Option A: Monthly Payments

Registration Deposit :	\$2,000
10 Monthly Payments :	\$2,500
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Total:	\$27,000

Option B: Semester Payments (5% Savings)

Registration Deposit :	\$2,000
2 Payments :	\$11,825
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Total:	\$25,650

Option C: Lumpsum Payment (10% Savings)

Registration Deposit :	\$2,000
1 Payment :	\$22,300
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Total:	\$24,300

*****Tuition is due on the 1st of each month for monthly plans and the first of each semester (Sept & Feb) for semester plans.**

Tuition & Fees

Part-Time Program Payment Plans

Neubloom offers flexible part-time programming designed to meet the diverse needs of families and learners. These programs run daily in two time blocks, either from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** or from **12:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, allowing families to choose a schedule that works best for them.

Option A: Monthly Payments

Registration Deposit :	\$1,500
10 Monthly Payments :	\$1,350
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Total:	\$15,000

Option B: Semester Payments (5% Savings)

Registration Deposit :	\$1,500
2 Payments :	\$6,375
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Total:	\$14,250

Option C: Lumpsum Payment (10% Savings)

Registration Deposit :	\$1,500
1 Payment :	\$12,000
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Total:	\$13,500

*****Tuition is due on the 1st of each month for monthly plans and the first of each semester (Sept & Feb) for semester plans.**

Admissions Process



STEP 1

Application Submission

Parents must fill out the registration form and submit all required documents.



STEP 2

Family Meeting & School Tour

Parents and children come to Neubloom for a tour and conference to discuss how we can best help your child.



STEP 3

Admission Confirmation & Payment

Once approved, families will receive a welcome package, along with an invoice for the deposit fee. Your child's spot is not confirmed until we receive the deposit.



STEP 4

Transition & First Day of School

Before starting school, we will implement a transition period to help get your child ready. Then once school starts, we will follow the drop-off and pick-up routines.

Medical Policies

Immunization & Health Records

All children must have up-to-date immunizations before the first day.

A current vaccination record is required upon enrollment and updated annually.

Medical exemptions must be approved by a licensed physician.

Illness Policy

Children must stay home if they have:

- Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher (must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication to return).
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
- Unexplained rash, pink eye, or contagious illness.
- Persistent cough, difficulty breathing, or flu-like symptoms.

Medication Policy

All prescription medications require a Medication Authorization Form.

All medication must be in its original packaging.

No medication should be left in a child's backpack

Allergy & Food Safety Policy

EpiPens and inhalers must be provided by parents if needed.

Parents must disclose food allergies or dietary restrictions during enrollment.

All staff are trained in EpiPen administration and allergy response.

*****Please note that restrictions on what can be packed in your child's lunch may apply based on allergies present in the classroom.**



Additional Policies

Privacy and Personal Information Policy

Neubloom is committed to protecting the privacy and personal information of our learners and their families. All records, including contact details, medical information, and educational documentation, are securely stored and accessible only to authorized staff. We will never share your personal information without your explicit consent, unless required by law. We follow all applicable privacy laws and standards in the handling and safeguarding of personal information.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy

At Neubloom, we are dedicated to creating an inclusive, affirming, and equitable learning environment where all children feel valued and respected. We celebrate diversity in all forms—culture, race, religion, language, gender identity, neurotype, ability, and family structure. Our programming and practices reflect a commitment to anti-oppressive education and the ongoing work of unlearning bias and building community. Every child belongs at Neubloom, and we work actively to ensure they feel it.

Media Consent Policy

Throughout the school year, Neubloom may take photos or videos during classroom activities, special events, or field trips. These images may be used in internal communications, newsletters, and promotional materials (such as social media or our website). We respect your family's preferences and will always request consent through a media consent form at the beginning of the school year. Families may change or withdraw their consent at any time by contacting the administrative team.

Additional Policies

Tuition Policy

Neubloom is a not-for-profit school committed to keeping tuition as accessible as possible while ensuring high-quality, individualized programming. Tuition fees are outlined in our current fee schedule and are billed monthly. Fees must be paid on time to retain enrollment. Missed days due to vacation, illness, or other absences are still billable, as tuition secures your child's spot in our program. Before and after care, field trips, and other extracurricular programming may incur additional fees. We will always aim to be transparent and communicative about all costs associated with our services.

Please note that a late pickup fee of \$50 will be charged for any child not picked up within their scheduled pickup window. This ensures we can appropriately support our staff and maintain smooth daily operations.

Communication Policy

At Neubloom, we believe that strong, respectful communication between families and educators is essential to supporting each learner's growth. We use the Remind app as our primary communication tool for day-to-day updates, announcements, and quick messages. For learning resources, classroom updates, and shared documents, we use Google Classroom.

Educators are happy to connect with families via email and will do their best to respond within 1–2 school days. If you'd like to discuss something in more depth, we are always happy to schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

To further support open communication and collaboration, we host two Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences per semester. These are a chance to connect, celebrate growth, and plan for continued success together.

We value our partnership with you and welcome ongoing feedback and dialogue.