

THE Ivy

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Enrolment Pack

BUSINESS BAY

THE Ivy



Our Vision

At The Ivy, children and families are at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you for considering The Ivy for your family. Choosing where your child will take their first steps into learning is one of the most meaningful decisions you will make — and we do not take that trust lightly.

At The Ivy, children and families are at the heart of everything we do. We believe early childhood is not simply a phase to "get through," but a formative window in which security, language, identity, and confidence are built, moment by moment. This belief shapes the way we welcome families, the way educators speak with children, and the way each environment is prepared with care.

The Ivy is intentionally designed for families who value both warmth and quality. Our spaces are calm, beautiful, and purposeful—created to support independence, deep play, and a strong sense of belonging. The smallest details matter: how a classroom is set up in the morning, how a child is greeted, and how transitions are handled gently and consistently.

Our programs draw on developmental science and evidence-based frameworks, and our approach is continuously reviewed and strengthened in collaboration with our advisory partners, such as Harvard University, as new insights emerge.

Families choose The Ivy for peace of mind: they know their child is receiving care and education that is thoughtful, structured, and deeply respectful of childhood

Reema Souraya - Founder

OUR KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

SAUL ZAENTZ Early Education INITIATIVE

REGGIO CHILDREN ®




NATURE


JUNIOR
Encyclopedia
OPPOSITES

Curriculum



OUR CURRICULUM

Learning comes to life through our carefully designed curriculum intertwined with our environment, inspired by play, nature, and the diversity of our communities.

WE'RE EXPERTS AT THIS

The Ivy is a carefully designed early learning environment, built in close partnership with families. We focus on what matters most in the early years: warm relationships, a sense of security, and days filled with curiosity, play, and meaning.

Our curriculum is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach and grounded in the Massachusetts Early Learning Standards, which provide the framework we measure progress against across the domains that shape school readiness and wellbeing. Within that structure, our educators observe closely, respond thoughtfully, and adapt experiences to each child, honoring each child's unique pathway. This balanced foundation prepares children to transition confidently into primary schools across Dubai, whether they continue into British, American, IB, or other international curricula.

A LIFE-LONG LOVE OF LEARNING

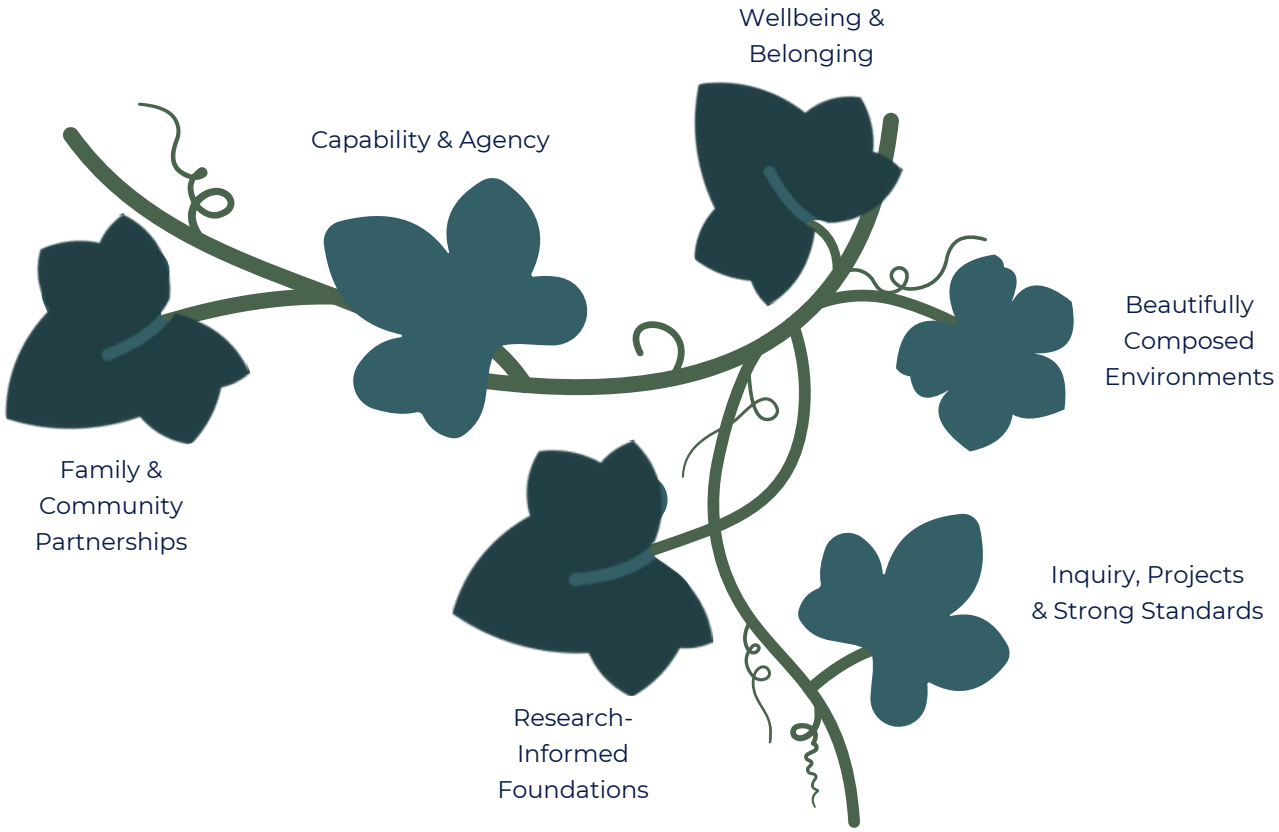
Our approach is inquiry-inspired, which means learning is brought to life through:

- child curiosity and inquiry
- meaningful projects and provocations
- open-ended materials and hands-on exploration
- language-rich interactions and thoughtful educator guidance

In practice, you'll see children building early literacy and numeracy foundations through real experiences: storytelling, dramatic play, cooking projects, block construction, patterning, measurement, and conversation. We focus on intellectual habits and dispositions, problem-solving, persistence, creativity, collaboration- alongside the skills that prepare children for primary school.

The Ivy Approach

A research-informed approach to early learning,
crafted with care, designed for growth.







Our Environments

Set within Business Bay's modern waterfront, The Ivy is a sanctuary for childhood- an intentionally designed space where families feel welcomed, children feel secure, and learning unfolds with joy and purpose.

BEAUTY AND BALANCE

Well-ordered, beautiful environments stir children's interest, curiosity, imagination, and wonder, enriching their development. We create early childhood environments to feel calm and welcoming, like a beautiful "home away from home"—while offering rich, carefully organized opportunities for challenge, discovery, and imagination.

A LOVE LETTER TO CHILDHOOD

You will notice:

- child-accessible shelving to support independence
- dedicated zones (literacy, construction, creative arts, sensory inquiry, imaginative play, quiet reflection)
- natural textures and open-ended materials that invite deeper play
- children's work displayed in a way that honors their thinking—never as decoration



Outdoor learning matters to us. Children need movement, fresh air, and nature-based exploration to regulate, build physical confidence and wellbeing. We adapt outdoor routines thoughtfully to Dubai's climate so children still benefit from consistent outdoor experiences across the year.

Children's needs and aspirations are at the heart of our decisions.

BEAUTIFULLY COMPOSED CENTRES

Our centres are created for functionality and aesthetics, with color, form, and shape considered in every artwork, decor choice, and material selection. Our environments are also enriched by practices in top hospitality settings.



OUTSTANDING OUTDOOR AREAS

Our commitment to biophilic design principles supports our belief that nature-inspired environments will profoundly benefit children's lives. Airy, spacious, open-ended interiors flow seamlessly into large, lush outdoor areas with nature-inspired play spaces.



PASSIVE BUILDING DESIGN

Our centres are oriented to receive natural daylight, reducing the need for artificial lighting. Each space uses passive ventilation methods to limit cross infection and reduce harmful CO2 build-ups in the environment.

WE'VE THOUGHT OF IT ALL

Every detail is designed to lighten the mental load for families. We provide and manage everyday essentials: nappies/diapers, wipes, and linens, while children have access to on-site pediatric support for health checks. Parents are welcomed with simple hospitality; morning treats, refreshments, and curated moments of care, alongside workshops that build confidence and continuity between school and home.





Nutrition



We treat nutrition as part of development. Food impacts energy, mood, sleep, and the ability to engage. We approach meals with the same care we bring to learning.

A NOURISHING, COLORFUL MENU

At The Ivy, mealtimes are social, unhurried, and rich with learning. Educators eat alongside children, model conversation and table manners, and support independence through age-appropriate self-serving and responsibility routines. Every meal, every day, is well-balanced, nutrient- dense and tasty, with limited refined sugars.

ALLERGIES AND INTOLERANCES

Allergies and dietary needs are taken seriously and managed in close partnership with families. Please talk to the Center Manager.

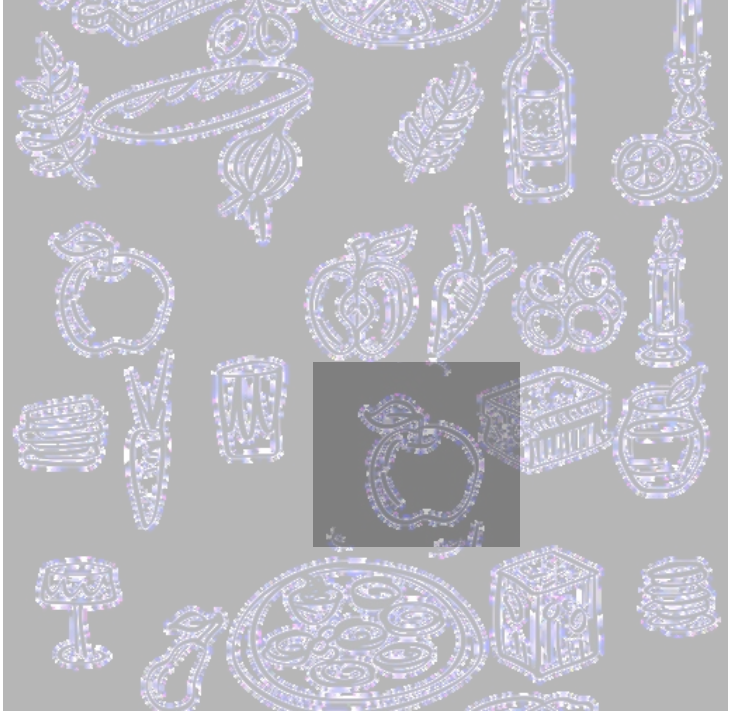


WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

High-quality sourced (where possible), seasonal goodness created by our passionate, experienced chef team using natural, healthy, unprocessed ingredients!

The Ivy kitchen is at the heart of our early childhood centres because we value the importance of food and nutrition, and appreciate our role in establishing healthy eating habits for your child(ren). We know quality food and a full belly contribute to growth, development, and contentment.





THE IVY

Sample Menu 2

MORNING TEA

Banana bran muffins
served with fruit

Water / Milk

LUNCH

Lentil Soup
Baked Salmon Filet
Mashed Potatoes
Tomato and Cucumber Salad

Water

AFTERNOON TEA

Triangle toasted wraps / wholegrain pita crisps, vegetable sticks and dips served with fruit (cucumber, carrot)

Water / Milk

LATE SNACK

Mini Pizza Rolls
Apple Slices
Water

THE IVY

Sample Menu 1

MORNING TEA

Cinnamon pita crisps
served with fruit and yogurt

Water/Milk

LUNCH

Vegetarian frittata Tofu and vegetable noodles
Simple quiche with homemade relish

Water

AFTERNOON TEA

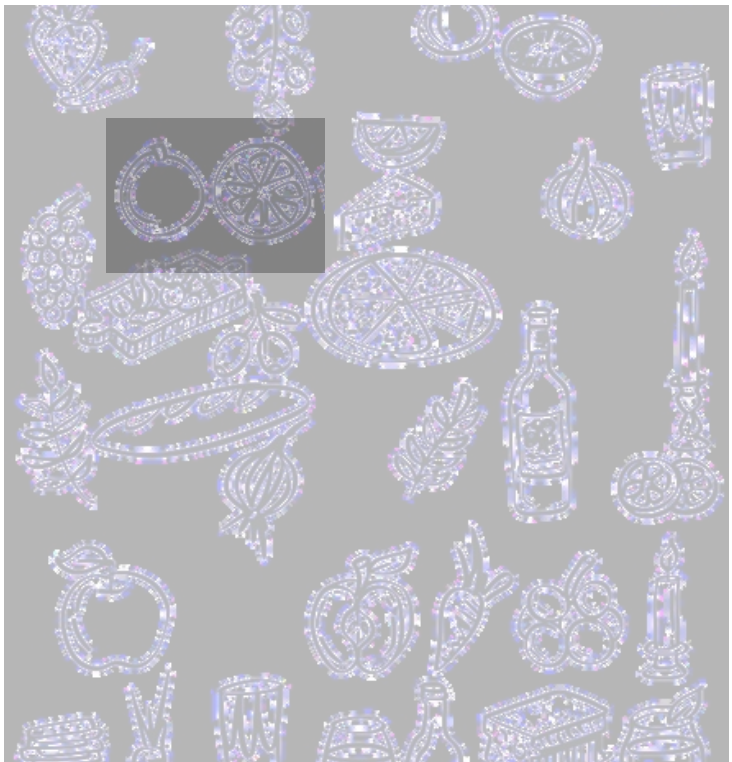
Avocado and tomato on toast / rice crackers served with fruit

Water/Milk

LATE SNACK

Homemade tomato relish and cheese rolls / avocado and scrambled egg rolls

Water



The Ivy-Family Partnership



SCHOOL-HOME PARTNERSHIP

At The Ivy, families are true partners. Children thrive when home and school feel aligned: consistent routines, shared language, and adults working together with clarity and care. We keep communication warm, professional, and purposeful, so you feel confident, informed, and supported from day one.

WHAT WE COMMUNICATE

Thoughtful, two-way communication

- We share meaningful updates (not noise), and we value what you notice at home—because it helps us support your child more consistently.

Clear developmental focus

- We make learning visible: language, independence, social confidence, self-regulation, and early thinking skills—shared in a way that is parent-friendly and practical.

Discretion and professionalism

- Privacy matters. Family information and media preferences are handled with care and clear consent.

Development made clear: Educators document observations over time and share clear, meaningful updates—so progress is visible and next steps are aligned.

HOW OFTEN WE COMMUNICATE

- Daily touchpoints with essential care information and highlights
- Ongoing observations and documentation that show growth over time
- Regular check-ins around settling-in, routines, and progress
- Scheduled parent meetings at key points in the year

THE IVY SOCIETY

The Ivy Society is our way of bringing school and home closer, so families feel supported, not just informed. Through The Ivy Society, parents are invited into a thoughtful calendar of workshops, resources, and community moments designed around real family life in Dubai.

You can expect practical guidance from our team, warm-touch details that make the everyday feel easier (morning treats on us!). It's a simple idea: when parents feel supported, children thrive.



Enrichment

*The Ivy includes two distinct offerings: our **Early Childhood Program** (daytime nursery/preschool) & our **Enrichment Program** (separate courses offered outside Early Childhood hours).*



OUR ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

In addition to our Early Childhood Program, The Ivy offers a standalone Enrichment Program with structured, course-based learning. This program is designed for children who want to go deeper in a subject area, build mastery over time, and learn alongside peers with similar interests. Courses run in evening and weekend sessions, and are offered in levels (Foundations, Intermediate, Advanced) depending on age and readiness. Early Childhood students may also enrol in select courses outside school hours, subject to age grouping and availability.

Interested in Enrolling in our Enrichment Programs? Talk to our team!



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Within your child's normal day, our curriculum already includes rich experiences across:

- The Arts (creative expression, fine-motor development, visual thinking)
- STEM / The Sciences (hands-on building, inquiry, early problem-solving)
- Language & Culture (including developmentally appropriate Arabic and French)
- Physical Activities: Sports, Yoga, Movement

These are woven into classroom projects and routines integrated, consistent, and aligned to children's developmental stages.

Sample Course Themes
The Arts, The Sciences, The Humanities

Example Courses
Robotics Lab | Coding Foundations | Young Artists' Studio | Arabic Studio | Chess Club | French Language | Fashion Illustration w/Fashion House | Mindful Art



“Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood…”

Friedrich Fröbel





The Role of Your Lead Educator

Your child will be matched with a primary Lead Educator who becomes your consistent point of connection. This educator supports your child's transition, builds a trusting relationship, and helps ensure continuity, communication, and care.
The Lead Educator acts as your child's "secure base" —someone who knows their routines, strengths, preferences, and ways of communicating. While all educators support all children, having a primary relationship matters: it builds emotional safety, and emotional safety is what allows learning to deepen.

Families can also expect a support educator in parallel when the Lead Educator is away, so consistency remains strong.

From the first week, we felt genuinely supported. The updates are thoughtful (not noisy), and the team always connects what they're seeing to practical next steps at home. It's the rare mix of warmth and real clarity.

- PARENT OF KG1 STUDENT



Settling Your Child

A child's first day in a new environment is a big step and while some children settle quickly, others take more time and need extra support.

We recommend a settling-in period with a parent or guardian present to help your child adapt happily to their new surroundings. We suggest at least three visits before their first booked day. The length of time and number of visits are different for every child. There's no rush; we want to make sure you and your child are confident and allow time for bonding.

We will work closely with you to understand:

- Your child's routines, temperament, and comfort needs
- What supports separation best (goodbye rituals, comfort items, consistency)
- How to build predictability and confidence across the first weeks





WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD SETTLE AT THE IVY

- Talk about The Ivy at home and, if possible, visit a few times before your child's first day so the environment feels familiar and predictable.
- Always say goodbye. A calm, consistent goodbye helps children trust that you will return. If a parent disappears suddenly, separation can feel confusing and increase anxiety.
- Send a comfort item if it helps, such as a small soft toy, a familiar blanket, or a family photo (labelled).
- Reconnect after pick-up. Plan a few unhurried minutes together each day. Ask what they enjoyed, what felt hard, and what made them feel proud.
- Share your child's routines and needs with your child's Lead Educator: sleep, feeding, toileting, sensitivities, comfort strategies, and typical moods, so we can support them consistently.
- Please call us if you need reassurance. It's normal to check in. Children often settle into play more quickly than parents imagine, and we're here to support you through those early days.

THE Ivy

SECURE A SPACE FOR YOUR CHILD

Become part of The Ivy family by visiting our website and filling out the form to secure your spot on our waitlist. A team member will reach out to you within 2 business days to discuss your needs and offer a complimentary tour of The Ivy.

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