

Bilingual Learning with LifeSmart™

Tutor Time is an international pre-school for children from aged 6 months to 6 years old. The bilingual English and Mandarin curriculum follows the Developmentally Appropriate Practices of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), USA.

"Children learn to love when they are loved" says the poster on the wall at Tutor Time® Child Care & Learning Centre in Tai Tam. And what better way to learn about love, and life, than through LifeSmart™'s eight distinct ways that children can be intelligent, or "smart":

- **WordSmart:** these children like to read, write and tell stories and excel at learning and using new words.
- **MathSmart:** these children like to explore patterns and numbers, and enjoy figuring out how things work.
- **BodySmart:** these children like to use body language, love to move and play sports, excel at dancing and other physical activity.
- **DesignSmart:** these children love to visualise things, read maps, draw, build, design and create.
- **MusicSmart:** these children enjoy singing, playing instruments and listening to music, and have a natural sense of rhythm.
- **NatureSmart:** these children like being outside and caring for living things.
- **PeopleSmart:** these children like to socialise and enjoy working in groups and pretending to be someone else and are sensitive to the feelings of others.
- **MeSmart:** these children are introspective; they are in-tune with personal feelings and thoughts and enjoy working alone.

Tutor Time's LifeSmart™ curriculum is based on extensive research and inspired by the work of respected development/early education theorists Jean Piaget, Erik Erikson and Lev Vygotsky, and Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences. The activities invite children to participate in self-directed investigations that build character as well as problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

A stroll around the centre with Alison Watson, the Director, brought to life the important role played by nature, math, music, books, art, blocks and a 'me' zone in creating a rounded sense of self and the world. The 'Me centre' caught my eye because it is a space in which a single child can take 'time out' of the play at his own discretion; a worthwhile reminder of how important it is to be able to stay in tune with ourselves when busy with tasks. Alison shared that children quickly adapt to and use this space in healthy ways, respecting another child's choice of 'time out'.

The Tai Tam facility has a sophistication and spaciousness about it that would make any Expat newcomer to Hong Kong feel right at home. That said, Alison mentioned that many local-born children attend Tutor Time® as well as international students.

There are three streams of activity – the Toddler Activity Group (TAG: 6 mos-2 yrs), the Nursery programme (2 yrs) and the Kindergarten programme (3-6 yrs). The Toddler Activity Group includes

the Baby Signing group, which encourages pre-lingual communication between parents and child using hand gestures, while there are three separate levels in the Kindergarten programme. All programmes are bilingual—English and Mandarin—and run five days per week, for up to three hours each day. There are afternoon as well as morning classes and also Saturday morning classes. There is a bus service available, too, for a reasonable fee, catering for children who live on Hong Kong Island. Two other Tutor Time® centres operate in Kowloon Tong.

The Kindergarten programme uses four key activities to facilitate learning and integration – a weekly Family Newsletter (dictated by the children and handwritten by the teacher), Fitness-For-Life activities, Creating Character story-time (when positive character traits are highlighted using quality children's literature) and the Big Book programme in which children read together in class and follow-up with personal reading time at home.

Tutor Time® also offers a state-of-the-art camera system that allows parents and management to monitor a child's safety at all times. As a Tutor Time® parent you can log onto www.tutortime.com.hk, input a password and view live pictures or streaming video (depending on which campus your child attends) of your child at play.

Finally, whether or not your child attends a Tutor Time® campus, for that special birthday occasion, your child can enjoy a wonderful three-hour Birthday Party package weekdays 2-5pm or Saturday mornings 9.30am-12.30pm. ■

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Established in 1988, the Tutor Time® Child Care / Learning Centres' network is comprised of more than 100 corporate and over 100 franchise schools throughout the United States, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Portugal and the Philippines. Tutor Time® is a subsidiary of Learning Care Group, Inc., the second largest for-profit provider of early childhood care and educational services in the United States. On January 10th, 2006, Learning Care Group, Inc. was acquired by A.B.C. Learning Centers Limited (ASX: ABS) – the largest publicly traded childcare service provider in the world. This relationship paves the way for future growth of premier childcare and educational services.



LifeSmart™ 雙語教學

多多國際幼兒園暨幼稚園是一間國際學前教育機構，適合六個月至六歲的幼兒及兒童，學校以美國國家幼兒教育協會(NAEYC)的合適發展課程(Developmentally Appropriate Practices)為綱領，以英語及普通話雙語教學。

「當兒童被愛護時，也學習到如何愛護別人。」這是牆上一張海報裡的說話，張貼在多多國際幼兒園暨幼稚園大潭校舍。要學習愛和生活，還有什麼方法比透過LifeSmart™的八種優越方法更好？它們可以令兒童，變得更有智慧或聰明。

- **WordSmart:** 這些兒童喜愛閱讀、寫作和說故事，爭取優異學習成績和運用新生字。
- **MathSmart:** 這些兒童喜歡探索圖案和數字，愛了解事物運作的原理。
- **BodySmart:** 這些兒童喜歡運用身體語言，喜歡活動和參加運動，在舞蹈和其他體能活動方面，更為喜愛。
- **DesignSmart:** 這些兒童喜歡想像和了解事物，閱讀地圖、繪圖、建築、設計和創作。
- **MusicSmart:** 這些兒童喜愛歌謠、奏樂器和欣賞音樂，培養出自然的節奏感。
- **NatureSmart:** 這些兒童喜愛戶外活動，愛護各種生物。
- **PeopleSmart:** 這些兒童喜愛社交活動，享受群體生活，代入別人的角色，關心他人的感受。
- **MeSmart:** 這些兒童喜歡反思，他們的個人感受和思維，裡外如一，享受獨自工作。

多多的LifeSmart直瑋(以廣泛研究為基礎，靈感源自多位備受推崇的早期教育及發展理論學者，包括：Jean Piaget、Erik Erikson與Lev Vygotsky及Howard Gardner的多元智能理論。鼓勵兒童透過自主探索，以培養個性人格和解決難題及評判思維的技巧。

隨著學校主管Alison Watson參觀校舍，讓我們了解大自然的重要性、數學、音樂、書籍、藝術、積木和「自我地帶」。創造了個人與世界的整體觀念。「自我地帶」很吸引人，因為這個空間讓孩子們可酌情決定自己何時暫停遊戲。這是個很有價值的设计，讓我們明白當忙於完成任務時，也需協調自己的身心。Alison告訴我們，兒童很快便能適應，懂得如何健康地使用這「空間」，同時尊重他人選擇「暫停」的權利。

多多的大潭校園的設備精緻及特殊，任何來自海外的新成員，都會有「家」的感覺。Alison說，多多的課程會同時吸引本地和外籍的學生就讀。

多多的教學活動分為三個主流，包括：幼兒活動小組(6個月至兩歲)、幼兒園課程(兩歲)及幼稚園課程(3至6歲)。幼兒活動小組包括嬰兒手語小組，鼓勵父母與還未懂得說話的嬰兒利用手語溝通。而幼稚園課程共分為三個級別。所有課程，都是採用英語和普通話雙語教授，每星期上課五天，每天上課時間最長三小時。除上午及下午班外，亦設有周末早上的課堂。學校提供巴士服務，收費合理，備有膳食供港島居住的學生。另外，多多國際幼稚園亦在九龍塘設有兩間分校。

多多的幼稚園課程利用四項核心活動，促進學生學習和融入群體：每週的家庭通訊(由兒童口述，再由教師代筆)、健身運動、創作人物故事時間(採用優質兒童文學作品，突出正面品格特質)，還有「大書籍」課程讓兒童一起在課堂裡朗讀，也能在家裡自行練習。

多多國際幼兒園暨幼稚園設有最先進的攝錄系統，讓家長和學校可隨時監察兒童的安全。成為多多國際幼兒園暨幼稚園的家長，你可以進入他們的網址：www.tutortime.com.hk，再輸入密碼，便可即時觀看孩子遊戲時的照片或流動影像(需視乎你的子女在那間分校上課)。

最後，即使你的孩子不在多多上學，也可以在多多舉辦生日派對。生日會舉行時間可在星期一至五下午二時至五時或星期六上午九時半至十二時半。■

多多國際幼兒園暨幼稚園
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多多兒童護理/學習中心網絡，成立於1988年，由逾百家公司及逾百間特許經營教育機構組成，學習中心遍佈美國、香港、印尼、葡萄牙和菲律賓。多多國際幼稚園是Learning Care Group, Inc.的附屬機構，Learning Care Group是美國第二大早期幼兒護理及教育服務商。在2006年1月10日，Learning Care Group被A.B.C. Learning Centers Limited (ASX: ABS)收購，它是全球最大的上市教育服務供應商。這種機構之間的關係，能為未來提供優質兒童護理及教育服務鋪路。

