How can I help my infant or toddler to get the most out of the class?

Infant and toddler classes will rely on you as the parent/guardian to actively participate in what is happening in the classroom. If it means dancing, creating art and listening to a story, you will be their best teacher, at home, to show them what is expected. Ask your child questions rather than telling them what to do, and narrate their play for them. Our teachers are happy to help you learn how to do this, be sure to connect with us if you want more support!

My child only wants to participate in the activities if I do it with them, how do I get them to be more independent?

If this is the first time your child is experiencing virtual learning, it will be quite normal for them to want you by their side. As they get used to the routine of what is happening, make friends, get to know their teacher and learn new skills, they will become confident in themselves and their abilities.

It will be important for you to encourage them during their activities with smiling and positive words of praise to help build their confidence. Make a plan to gradually phase out your participation, and make sure your environment is set up for them to focus. If you need help with either of these areas, please contact us!

My child is tired in the middle of the class. Is this normal?

Learning is hard work…. We see this regularly in our face-to-face campuses, and it is no surprise to see it in the virtual world, too! Until your child is completely adjusted to their new routine, it is very common to see them fatigue in the middle of the class. You may also want to look at your home routine: depending on when your child is in class you may need to adjust their nap, rest, meal and toileting routines…. It will be important to observe your child and monitor how they are doing, and our teachers can share feedback with you in this area as well!
My child is 5 years old, can she be placed in a group with her 3 year old cousin?

While we understand that it can be comforting for children to already know someone in the group, we place children into classes based on their age and developmental stage. It is important to us that every child is staying engaged and is challenged throughout their classes.

Can my child be placed into a group with teachers and children that he already knows?

When placing children into groups and creating schedules, we take into consideration all requests and try our best to accommodate. To be able to offer flexible schedules, at this time, we cannot guarantee that you will be placed into a group full of people you are familiar with. Our teachers are experts at helping children to feel welcome, comfortable and heard.

My child likes one of their teachers better, can we only be in that teacher’s class?

We understand children and teachers create special bonds. It is also important for children to experience other teachers. Doing so will help ready them for the school system where they may have a different teacher for each subject. For that reason, we encourage parents and children to work their way through this challenge together.

My child only likes Right Brain (or Left Brain or Movement) can we only do that program?

Our program is designed to develop the whole child and each program area focuses on a different set of skills. By participating in all three, children will be exposed to rich experiences and learning opportunities.

Do I have to stay with my child throughout their class?

This depends on your child’s age and their ability to work independently. For infants, we recommend that the parent participates with their child for the entire lesson. For toddlers, parent participation is required, but there may be times when you
can step away to prepare your child for preschool. For preschool, most children should be able to complete our activities independently with little to no supervision.

**Why is my child eating snack in the middle of their preschool class?**

Children are extremely active and learning is hard work. And just like being in a “real” child care setting, snack time is worked into the daily routine. It helps to replenish their bodies and give a short break so they can continue to learn without depleting energy and losing focus.

Not only that, many of our most important skills as adults are learned through social activities like mealtimes… how to listen, how to wait your turn, how to eat politely, how to hold a conversation and how to stay focused on others are all skills that are practiced while eating snack together!

**My child was the only child in the class today, is that normal?**

Children are booked into all of our classes but sometimes family schedules change. If it happens where your child is the only one in attendance, see this as an opportunity for your child to have one-on-one time with their teacher. This time will be used for the teacher to work on your child’s individual skills and abilities to further their learning.

**My child is not interested in the activity that is currently taking place in the class - what should I do?**

Continue to encourage them to follow along with class- show your enthusiasm and they will likely follow along too. Sometimes children need help to refocus their attention and along with help from the teacher, both of you should be able regain their attention in their classroom activities.

If that doesn’t work and your child really doesn’t want to participate, remind them to be respectful while in class. They can stay nearby and do a different activity from the rest of the group without interrupting the teacher. You could have some colouring
activities ready nearby, some blocks or some books to look at! Keep in mind: children are confident, creative and capable! We want them to grow up to be independent people who make their own decisions… for this reason, we encourage parents and teachers to support children when they don’t want to participate, as long as they are making respectful choices that are considerate of other people.

My child doesn’t want to get ready for virtual preschool every day, does this mean it’s not the right fit for them?

Just like adults, we don’t want to go to work everyday. Creating an everyday routine for children is very important and something they thrive on once it’s a regular occurrence.

Struggles like creating a routine are situations that can be difficult, however, being consistent, using encouragement and excitement to explain what they will do during class will help your child understand how important going to school is for them. And most often, once class starts, they forget they didn’t want to be there.

Why does the teacher only call on some students?

Teachers try their best to call on every student during class. Sometimes there are children who need to be called on more often to keep their attention and other times calling on each child is mistakenly overlooked. Please kindly remind your child’s teacher to call on your child and they will do their best to remember for next class.

What kind of assessments will you be doing for the children? How will you meet with the parents to provide them feedback on their child’s development and progress?

Virtual Preschool teachers will assess children on a regular basis using our Brain Metrics system. This assessment will provide teachers and parents with valuable feedback regarding your child’s development and their executive functions- cognitive flexibility, working memory and inhibitory control. Once an assessment has been completed our team will be in contact with you to set up a date/time to go through the results.
The activities are really messy. Can the teachers plan activities that are cleaner?

We fully understand messy learning and what it takes to clean up when children are finished creating. Early learning sensorial experiences are very important in a child’s development and help their brains! Not only that, messy, sensory experiences ensure that learning is fun for children, and that is the most important part of raising a life-long learner.

If you are concerned about specific items, please contact us for substitution recommendations or alternatives. You may also choose to limit the materials available for your child!

How do I set up the materials for my child?

We recommend a designated learning area, with a shelf for left brain materials, and art caddy for right brain materials, and a laundry basket for movement materials. Keep them all stored together, visible and available to your child in their home classroom environment. If you are unable to create a designated space in your home, then at the very minimum, please make sure your materials are available for your child to access independently.

I can’t find some of the materials on the list, does this mean I can’t participate?

You can always participate in classes! If you can’t find everything, please provide alternatives or contact us so we can help you come up with a plan. You are also encouraged to always have basic art supplies, books and building blocks available for your child, in case something doesn’t work out.

I don’t understand what a material is on the list - what should I do?

You can reach out to our team to ask for clarification, or you can make your ‘Best Guess.’ Our teachers know that not every child and family will have the exact same materials in our virtual preschool so we have become experts at making anything work!
Can I give my child all the materials and just let them do what they want?
The material lists provided to you are for specific learning experiences. Please group listed materials how they are provided to you. This will help to ensure your child has what they need for all of their class activities and not run out of supplies.

What if I don’t have the necessary materials?
A great feature of this program is that we provide you with the materials. Every week we will have your materials waiting for you. Please note that the pick up of materials will be contactless and know that we have taken safety precautions when handling materials.

What are the technology requirements? How will I know if I have set it up correctly?
To get the most out of the classroom learning experience, we ask that you have:
- TV with HDMI Connection
- Laptop/Tablet with HDMI Connection
- HDMI Cable
- Wireless Headphones with Integrated Mic
- Internet
- Webcam

We recommend that you complete a test session to ensure that the equipment is working properly. Should you need assistance or have questions- we are happy to help!

What happens if I miss a class? Can I get a recording?
We record our classes for training and quality purposes. We are unable to share class recordings, but due to our program’s flexible nature, we are happy to work with you to arrange an alternative, where possible.
I can’t access the Zoom links - what should I do?
Contact our tech support team for assistance at admin@fuelingbrains.com or on our instant messaging system.

It’s hard to hear the teacher. Why aren’t the children muted all the time?
At certain times through class, the teacher will unmute everyone to have a group-like discussion much like what would happen in person. If your child is having a hard time hearing what is being discussed, it may be a good idea to purchase a set of Bluetooth headphones for class.

If my child isn’t adapting well to online classes, can I terminate from the program immediately?
The great thing about our program is that you are only signing up for a week at a time. Should you want to stop classes as of next week, all you have to do is let us know by Wednesday of the current week.

We do recommend children continue for at least a 3 week time frame- children usually take this long to transition into something new!