



SIDNEY LEDSON INSTITUTE

FOR INTELLECTUAL ADVANCEMENT

Raising children's intelligence since 1980



PROGRAM



HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Early Reading
- ◆ Small Class Sizes
- ◆ Individualized Learning
- ◆ Enriched Curriculum
- ◆ Gifted Accommodation
- ◆ Secondary School Admission Prep (SSAT/ IB)

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Campus: 220 Duncan Mill, M3B 3J5

Dear Parents,

*Thank you for your interest in Sidney Ledson Institute's Preschool to Grade 6 academic programs. This brochure includes details about our application process, as well as about the enriched curriculum and activities offered as part of SLI's elementary school education, both online and on-campus. Please note that for September and October, we are holding classes exclusively online, and should risk of infection remain low and sustainable, we will send notice when the option to attend on-campus becomes available; **all students will have the option to continue with the online format for the entire 2020-2021 academic year.***

To have a look at some fun and educational activities that keep our students engaged and stimulated, on-campus and online, you can visit our instagram page:



[@sidneyledsoninstitute](https://www.instagram.com/sidneyledsoninstitute)

An introduction by SLI's Vice Principal (also an advisory member of Mensa Canada's Gifted Youth Committee and membership coordinator for the National Council on Measurement in Education):



click to play

Academic, Summer, and General Information

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Academic Year

Preschool (Distance Learning):

Students in preschool are equipped with the most essential foundation skills necessary to prepare for an academically rigorous and socially inclined Junior Kindergarten program. This condensed program includes **30-minutes spent, daily**, in an interactive and dynamic **one-on-one video-chat with their class teacher**, daily **30-minute carpet time** with their class teacher and preschool classmates, and **20-minute video-chat French lessons** from Tuesday to Thursday with their French teacher and classmates in preschool - JK . Each 30-minute lesson with the child's teacher will include three parts: 10 minutes of **reading** instruction, 10 minutes building **numeracy** skills, and 10 minutes working on **critical thinking** skills. Each class, their teacher will assign two **optional printable worksheets** to supplement learning. Every afternoon, preschool students have the option to join Carpet Time (**3:15pm - 3:45pm**) for an **engaging social experience** with their teacher and classmates. During Carpet Time, children can look forward to interacting in the context of a variety of **educational themes**, such as **Storytelling, Art Appreciation, General Knowledge, Show and Tell, and more**. A **minimum attendance plan** (based on one-on-one sessions scheduled with their teacher) **of 3 days per week** will be required for an accurate on-going measure of sustained progress, and on this schedule students will be eligible to receive a year-end Sidney Ledson Institute report card. Children registered on any one-on-one attendance plan are welcome to join French and Carpet time on all days that these activities are scheduled to occur (e.g., a child registered for one-on-one lessons with their teacher on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday may attend Tuesday's French and Carpet Time). Optional programs (at an additional fee) include 15-minute private **piano lessons** for children that have a keyboard at home to practice with (Saturdays), as well as 30-minute **Yoga & Zumba** classes on Friday afternoons.

Our Distance Learning program delivers the same quality of one-on-one education as our traditional campus by using Google Meet video-chat and Google Classroom for assignment processing. A regular Gmail address and a Chrome internet browser are the only necessary prerequisites required for access through any desktop device. Mobile devices can be used for access by downloading the Google Classroom and Hangout Meets apps.

Kindergarten (JK/SK) (Distance Learning)

In progression from our preschool curriculum, students in JK and SK receive the same reinforcement of foundation skills while applying higher-order problem solving to explore logical applications. Students are provided with a daily set of printable worksheets that allow them to exercise and demonstrate comprehension of lessons taught through a combination of video-chat instruction from their teacher and recommended instructional videos. Subjects covered fall under **math, english, reading, computer literacy / programming, entrepreneurship, journalism, and critical thinking**, as well as **natural and social sciences**. The kindergarten teacher works with students individually and in groups at times scheduled every day from **9:00am - 4:00pm**. Every afternoon, Kindergarten students join Carpet Time (**3:15pm - 3:45pm**) for an **engaging social experience** with their teacher and classmates. During Carpet Time, children can look forward to interacting in the context of a variety of **educational themes**, such as **Storytelling, Art Appreciation, General Knowledge, Show and Tell, and more**.

Our Distance Learning program delivers the same quality of one-on-one education as our traditional campus by using Google Meet video-chat and Google Classroom for assignment processing. A regular Gmail address and a Chrome internet browser are the only necessary prerequisites required for access through any desktop device. Mobile devices can be used for access by downloading the Google Classroom and Hangout Meets apps. Devices with keyboards are required for participation in computer literacy curriculum components.

Grades 1 - 6 (On-campus and Distance Learning)

Our Grade Program is academically enriched, providing not only an advanced (depth and breadth) learning in each subject, but also promoting critical thinking in all areas. We maintain a class **ratio of 1:12** students (approximately), which allows our teachers to provide for **individualized learning** for each child. Every new student is **assessed** in the first couple of days, at the start of the program, to gauge their academic abilities, identify strengths and weaknesses, and to establish academic goals and a plan to ensure their academic success. Upon admission, subjects taught include **math, language, entrepreneurship, journalism, computer science** (HTML, CSS, Intro to Machine Learning, Python, R, Javascript block-based programming, graphic model engineering), **natural science, history, geography, research, arts, current events, debate (Model UN), physical education** and more. In addition, students receive **French** instruction three times per week, and **music** (practical and theory) instruction, once a week. We also offer the option of extra instruction in **French** (DELFL certificate preparation) and in **piano** (choice of regular or **Royal Conservatory of Music exam** preparation). Our students are prepared for, and participate in national **math, writing, and computer science competitions** throughout the year. Students in **Grades 3 - 6 receive SSAT-track preparation** as part of this enriched program. Upon graduating, our Grade 6 students are well prepared for middle school, as they continue on to some of the most sought-after secondary schools that require academic excellence, determined by admission tests.

Our Distance Learning program delivers the same quality of one-on-one education as our traditional campus by enabling **full-day access to teachers** and classwork using Google Meet video-chat and Google Classroom for assignment processing. A regular Gmail address and a Chrome internet browser are the only necessary prerequisites required for access through any desktop device. Devices with keyboards are required.

Extras (On-campus and Distance Learning)

In line with our academic standards, we offer rotating extra-curricular and co-curricular activities that enhance relevant skills. Examples of our **extra-curricular activities** include Spanish Language Learning, Improv, Mechanics and Engineering, Chess, Science, Pottery, Sketching, Robotics, and more. During school hours, we encourage students to lead their peers by setting up **Student Clubs** (e.g. Research/Debate, Do It Yourself Club, Games Club, etc). We also initiate our students into the **SLI House League**, for which fun and stimulating academic, athletic, and team-building challenges are held through the year, aimed to promote leadership, character-skill development, and to further facilitate peer bonding within teams consisting of students from Preschool to Grade 6. In supplementing our immersive academic and co-curricular lesson plans, we arrange for **field trips**, throughout the year, to enhance student learning (physical field trips are replaced with online simulations for distance learning).

Presentations (On-campus and Distance Learning)

December:

For our **Holiday Gala**, students from Pre-K - Grade 6 participate in festive holiday-themed **performances**, followed by secular **carolling** and a visit from **Santa**! Parents receive **video** footage of the event.

February:

On Valentine's Day, we choose to celebrate a love for all the cultures that enhance the pluralistic fabric of our nation. As such, we celebrate this occasion as **Valentine's-Heritage Day**, sharing not just Valentine's cards, but also student-initiated **performances** and **celebratory activities** that commemorate traditions stemming from the various cultures represented within our diverse SLI community. Parents receive **video** footage of the event.

May:

We hold our annual **Talent Show** and **Piano Recital** to enhance students' comfort and practice in **performance** and **public speaking**, particularly within areas that let their unique and brilliant personalities shine. Students, simultaneously, benefit from the empowering experience of having a voice in **voting**, as the winner of the '**Student's Choice Award**' is elected based on student ballots, submitted by students as young as three year of age! Parents receive **video** footage of the event.

June:

The **End-of-Year Gala** brings a grande finale to the academic year. The gala begins with class **performances** by students from Pre-K to Grade 6, as they showcase some of the impressive academic and presentation skills they have built on over the year. These performances are followed by an **awards ceremony**, during which students receive certificates for national rankings in math, writing, and computer science competitions, as well as awards and sponsored **prizes** earned within the school for "Most Valuable Contributions" to the school community. Finally, our graduating students deliver their departing **speeches**. **Parents are invited** to attend this event, and they also receive a **video** of the event (a virtual version takes place for Distance Learning).

Hours

(On-campus and Distance Learning) Instruction time is from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday**.

(On-campus, only) Before and after school supervision is available between **7:30 a.m.** to 9:00 a.m. and, 4:00 p.m. to **6:00 p.m.**

Schedule (On-campus and Distance Learning)

The school is **open right through the year** (including March Break and Summer), but is closed for two weeks for winter holidays.

Summer Program

Traditional Summer Camp (Distance Learning)

Our Summer Program gives students the advantage of enhancing **traditional academic skills**, as well as an opportunity to learn and excel in **Spanish, French, Entrepreneurship, Journalism, Web Development, App Design, and Debate** subject areas. The emphasis in our program is to have the students improve on their **Math** and **English** skills. Students are **assessed** on the first couple of days at school to determine their level of skills at their grade level. Having identified their areas of weaknesses and strengths, students are then issued reinforcement or accelerated work in Math and English (to meet and surpass 2020 curriculum standards as per the revised Math curriculum for Ontario). **Science** and **social studies** are taken up during weekly **research** to give students an idea and head start on some of the concepts they will be learning in the following academic year. Children also learn **public speaking** in priming for class debate presentations.

Attendance for students during the summer is condensed into half-days (9:00am - 12:00pm, Monday to Friday).

SSAT Summer Camp (On-campus and Distance Learning)

In the summer, we also offer the **SSAT Prep Course**, which is an **8-week** preparatory course for students planning to write the **Middle or Upper Level** Tests on November of the same year. This preparatory course prepares the student in the five areas that the student will be tested on: Math, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary, Analogies and Essay & Creative Writing. The SSAT Prep **continues** for SLI students in Grade 6, starting **September** in the academic year.

Admission Process

Academic Year Admission (Distance Learning)

September - June Traditional Intake: Students enrolled in either July or August [summer courses](#) are assessed for academic year admission candidacy as part of their first week of enrolment in the summer program. Parents of students that are not enrolled in our summer courses will be contacted to arrange for assessment during select afternoons during the summer. These assessments gauge students' abilities in Math (the six strands of curriculum math) and English (various elements such as grammar, spelling, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing). In addition, we take note of socio-emotional aptitude through observation of interpersonal communication with peers and the teacher, as well as any distinguishable preferences in their way of learning. In determining suitability for the enriched SLI curriculum and culture of distributed leadership, we prioritize students' potential and motivation to adapt and grow in an accelerated academic framework. The assessment fee is \$50 per afternoon (1pm - 4pm), and typically takes 3 days. In certain cases, the

principal may request additional observation periods to form an admission decision. Recent report cards and work samples may also be requested during this assessment period.

Rolling Intake (mid-year): These are 1-day assessments in the form of class participation, at a fee of **\$50 for preschool** and **\$100 for JK - Grade 6**. Should there be a need for additional assessment, the principal may recommend a second assessment day. Recent report cards and work samples may also be requested during this assessment period.

If the applicant meets admission criteria, an offer of admission will be made within three school days upon completion of the assessment, contingent on placement availability.

Your Next Steps (Distance Learning Application)

To apply for the **Distance Learning program**, please complete and **submit the linked Application Form** by email to info@sidneyledsoninstitute.net. We will contact you to arrange for an assessment date and classroom orientation.

[Distance Learning Tuition Fees](#)

[Distance Learning Application Form](#)

Contact

Admissions Phone Contact

To contact us about admission-related questions, you can email info@sidneyledsoninstitute.net or call 416 446 5355 x 1 to speak to the principal and chief admissions officer, Ms Rumina Shivji.

Campus Location

220 Duncan Mill Drive #107, Toronto, ON

Website

www.sidneyledsoninstitute.net