



10 Reasons Why...A learning pod might be the right academic fit for your child:

- 1. Small group focus with more opportunity for 1 on 1 support**
- 2. Academic support for both parents and teachers who do not feel equipped for a full homeschool transition**
- 3. No political influence. Control of familial values, tradition, and ideology (parent focused education)**
- 4. Pod learning gives single parents and double income parents more flexibility and choice**
- 5. Accountability and transparency between the teacher, parent, and student**
- 6. Student ability to work above or below their prescribed "grade level" based on their own abilities**
- 7. Trained and experienced teachers to administer learning**
- 8. Building strong relationships with teachers leads to strong academic performance and happier kids**
- 9. Parental prerogative to supplement student learning as they see fit**
- 10. Dynamic and exciting learning opportunities not limited to only a government program, such as learning critical thinking skills and financial independence**



10 Reasons Why...A learning pod might be the right Social/Emotional fit for your child:

- 1. Opportunities to make lifelong friends – Bullying is nonexistent**
- 2. Emotional and social consistency in a stable environment**
- 3. More leadership opportunities in real life scenarios and situations**
- 4. Development of social skills**
- 5. Strong and dedicated community of both parents and students**
- 6. Structure, routine, consistency**
- 7. Opportunities to learn positive social interaction, peer problem solving, and conflict resolution**
- 8. School boards don't dictate what they think is best for your child**
- 9. Your child's "learning problems" might not be problems at all**
- 10. Reasonable time for healthy living ie. time to eat lunch, snack, and have physical activity**

Freedom Teachers Pillars of Care

Student Development

Core to our approach to curriculum and engagement is the understanding of the developmental stages of children, and that each child is unique in their development, abilities, skill sets, and talents. In partnership with parents we will guide, teach, and encourage students in their development as learners who are created with their own unique set of attributes, interests, talents, and personalities. Our goal is to *exceed* prescribed standards at each level of development and grade level. Our educators will recognize, diagnose, and accommodate, to the best of their ability, the multiple ways that students learn.

Fostering Resilience

Core to our belief in creating an engaging and stimulating learning environment is *fostering*, in each student, the resilience to overcome the challenges and obstacles they will encounter as unique learners. During this process each student will have the opportunity to develop their character and tolerance for failure as they engage in the practice of advancing their knowledge, skills, talents, and abilities. Our educators will design strategies that equip students with effective tools that help overcome frustration and other negative emotions and obstacles that impede learning. These tools may include but are not limited to: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Research, and using previous understandings to guide new information intake etc.

Roles of Parents and Educators

Beliefs, faith, and morals are critical attributes best nurtured by parents in the family setting. It is not the role of our school or its educators to take the lead role in developing these critical attributes, but rather to support and respect the sacred bond that exists between the child and their parents, and to model exceptional and professional behaviour in respecting the institution of the family. Parents are expected to take an active role in the facilitation of student learning in our space. At all times teachers and parents are expected to have a common understanding of the child's academic abilities.

Learning Environment and Safety

In addition to our educational objectives, the physical and emotional health and wellness of the students entrusted to us is of equal priority. We strive to promote behavioural expectations that establish a safe and respectful environment. Our educators will follow our guidelines and procedures that have been created in partnership with parents that support a safe learning environment. This includes transparency to parents in all matters relating to your child. Please see our policy regarding Health and Wellness for further information.

Building Community

To support the transparency we strive for in education, we believe community and relationships are foundational to the success of each child. We strive to provide opportunities for families to connect with one another, for families to be involved in the day to day events of their child's education, and for students to develop their own community as learners. At the forefront of our pillars is our desire to create and sustain a strong community in which everyone has an opportunity to contribute to. Our blended programming allows students to work with and build relationships with all students at all grade levels, fostering natural mentor-mentoree relationships.



Who are we?

Freedom Teachers is a group that was established in September of 2021. We started as a husband and wife team who left the public education system in hopes of better supporting parents and their children directly. Since our Homeschool Pod started in January of 2022 we have seen tremendous growth from students in our space, often making up lost learning time, and then going on to exceed provincial standards. We have seen incredible growth in our community from parents who have a vested interest in their child's learning, and also in building a stronger parent community. We continue to grow our Homeschool Pod in NW Calgary, in hopes of developing other spaces in the future.

Mr. Christian - Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts combined w/ a specialization in Elementary Education, Double Minor in History and Psychology. 9 years teaching, briefly with the Foothills school division and then CBE. Taught grade 1-6 and 3 years of Junior High (grade 7). Majority of my career was spent teaching in High English Language Learner populations and inner city schools.

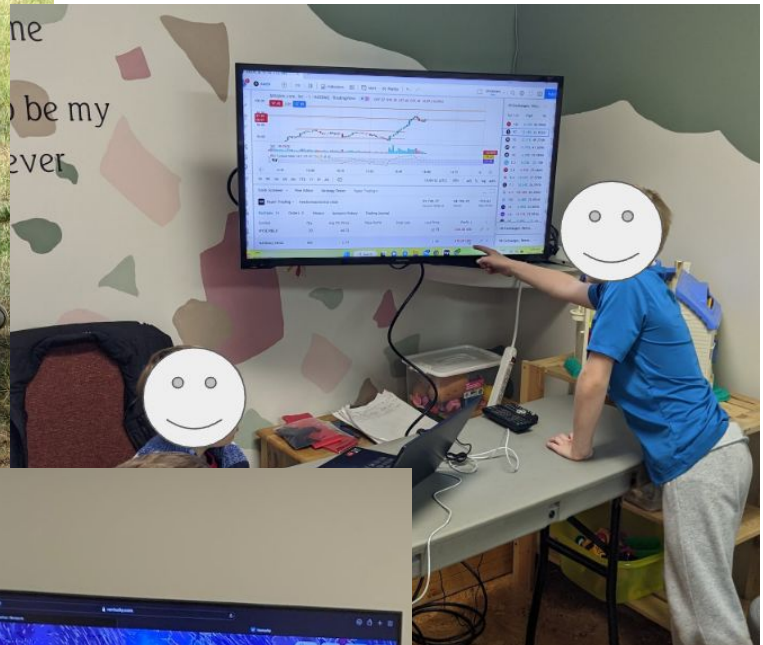
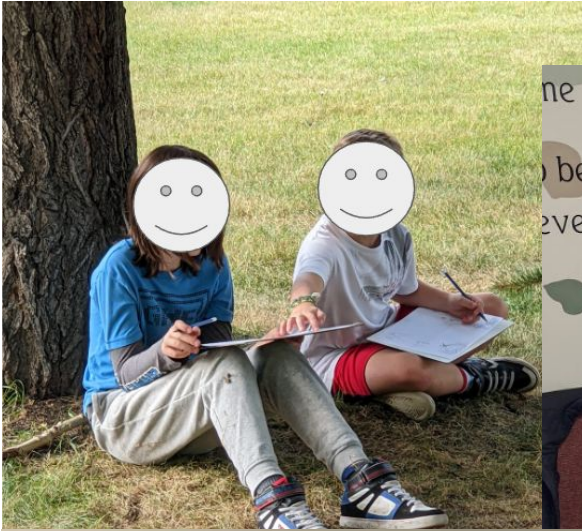


Mrs. Maggie - Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts combined with a minor in Psychology and Sociology. Teaching for 11 years with the CBE and taught in a variety of schools across Calgary. K-7 with the majority being spent in 3/4 combined. 4 years working in schools with High English Language Learner populations and new immigrants to Canada.



Freedom Teachers offers:

- Homeschool transition support
- Documentation support (homeschool year plan development)
- Certified educators that have a clear background / vulnerable sector check, as well as first aid certification
- Support with curriculum and assessment
- Targeted literacy and math instruction
- Multi-grade Science and Social Studies inquiry and projects
- Ample opportunities for physical development (gym) and social play
- Fine arts and extracurriculars
- Dynamic and unique learning opportunities such as financial literacy and critical thinking skills



what does a daily schedule look like?

Monday - Thursday / Half day Fridays

8:30am - 9:00am- Soft open

9:00am-10:00am- Targeted Literacy

10:00am-10:30am- Snack / body break

10:30am-11:30- Math

11:30am-12:15pm- Physical Literacy, body break, positive play

12:15pm-1:00pm- Literacy Centres / spelling / reading

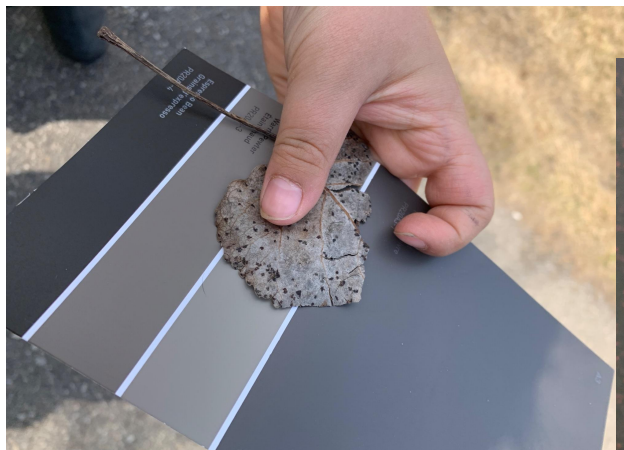
1:00pm-1:30pm- Lunch Parent pick up for half day students

1:30pm-2:30pm- Student Options / Art / STEM

2:30pm- 3:30pm Science/Social Studies (experiments/projects etc)

3:30pm Parent pick up

Please note Monday-Friday morning spaces are limited.



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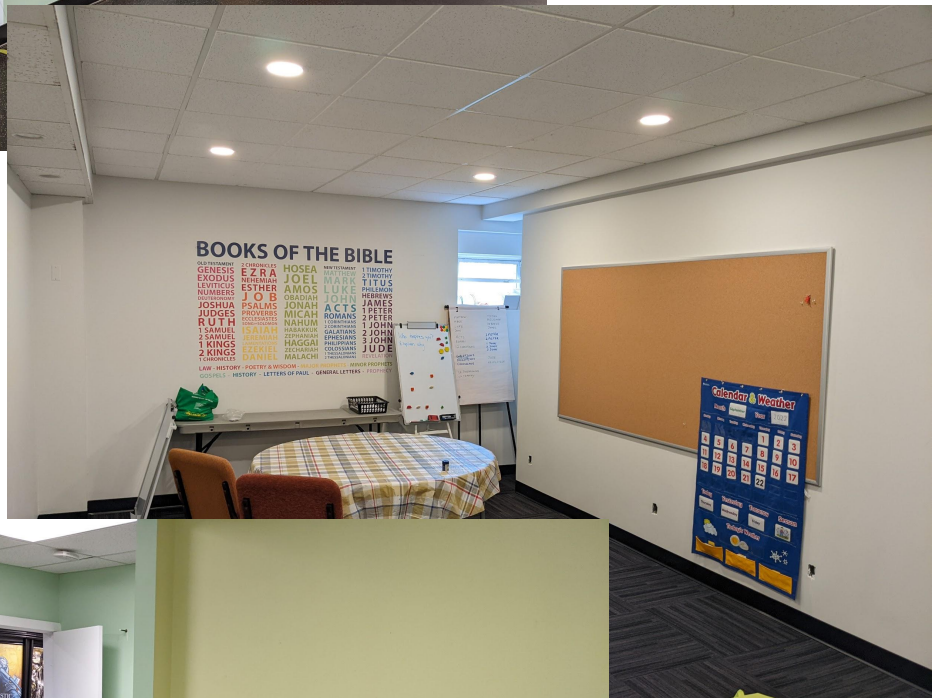
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Testimonials:

Last Spring, after homeschooling for a year and a half and struggling with online learning programs, the Learning Pod came at the right time and place for us.

Maggie, Christian and Michael provide a fun and positive environment for learning. They genuinely care about the children and foster a very nurturing atmosphere in which they and the children support one another. Our daughter has developed strong bonds with both the teachers and students and as parents, we enjoy being part of a very welcoming community in which we share the same values.

-Mike

"Freedom Teachers has been amazing for our children. We made the decision to homeschool our children last year, but we were overwhelmed with the responsibility of educating our children. We were so blessed to find Christian and Maggie at a time when we needed them most. The teachers, other kids, and the space itself is very welcoming and our kids adjusted easily to the day to day routine of the pod. Our children have connected with the other kids in the pod regardless of age. Our daughter who is 5 is best friends with a boy who is 9 and also considers her his BFF. We have seen tremendous growth in our children, My son who is was in grade 1 went from not reading at all, to reading at a grade 2 level in 6 month. As a parent, I can rest easy knowing that my children are in the hands of amazing teachers and surrounded by a community of children and families who want an alternative to public education and need assistance in making the transition to homeschooling."

-Tammy

"I have two boys who were in grade 1 and grade 3 in the public system until Oct 2021. I decided to pull them out of the public system due to misinformation, constant uncertainty back and forth, lack of care from teachers in terms of them making friends, not being able go ask valid, real questions and told to be in line with everyone else or they were causing a disturbance in the class. On my research mission I had heard from a friend of a few teachers who left the regular system and felt the same way as we did, we met them in person for dinner at our friends and instantly loved their stand on what education should look like for kids and it went in line with all of our core values we had been asking for. The boys, since day one of Feb 2022, having been part of the tutor pod. They have been so much happier, their anxiety has gone down tremendously and they both have adjusted really well to the new environment. The teachers at the tutor pod truly care about each child's well being mentally and emotionally, how they are progressing academically, and encourage them to go further even beyond their own age in reading and math to challenge them. We were amazed that our grade 1 who had speech therapy all the way to 6 years old was now reading above his grade level and loving his math work at school with the other kids. Our grade 3 was doing grade 4 math at the end and was also making so many friends it truly confirmed the best decision we have ever made for both. As a class the parents know one another, we have outings together, volunteer for fun days at the pod, do birthdays together and our kids have friends of all ages from 4-11 years old they all know by name. Our boys also have had the opportunity to be reading buddies with the younger kids, showing true leadership skills and empathy for others, which is fantastic to see. The kids in the tutor pod get to ask questions, have a voice, get real information, make lifelong friends, get more assistance from the teacher being smaller sub groups by age and honestly miss school during the breaks and want to be back right away. As a parent I know it's tough to remove them from the regular system as that's what we have been conditioned to know and do. It's been the best decision to pull my two kids out as they are thriving more now than I've ever seen before.

We hope you guys make the best decision for your family too, we are excited to see you guys at the pod soon."

-Bethany & Family

"We joined Freedom Teachers because the public system was doing our daughter no favors. There were so many days of tears, constant panic that she was behind and no good compared to her peers. She was losing confidence in herself quickly and it was affecting so many things. Within a month of Freedom Teachers she was on track, not one day of tears and looking forward to every day of school. She is writing and reading above level now. I love the flexibility for her to move at a faster pace where she can, and slow down where she needs to. It's a wonderful feeling knowing that, as parents, we have valued input into our kid's schooling. I highly recommend Freedom Teachers, they are amazing teachers, genuinely care about each child and in this setting actually have the time to meet each child's learning needs. I can't wait to see what they do for both of our kids this year!"

-Jaime

Testimonials:

"As a parent I am happy to provide my perspective with respect to the learning pod. After having had a negative experience at first in a private school, and then with public school we decided to homeschool for the 2021/22 school year. Overall our homeschooling experience was good. We got through the curriculum and had lots of flexibility and free time. However, as working parents we were finding it difficult to juggle both school and our own work schedules and ultimately we felt as though our son needed more social interaction as well. We found out about the learning pod through friends, and had the opportunity to have our son in the pod for the month of June to see if it was a good fit. At first, our son was very hesitant about the idea of starting at another new place due to his prior experiences as well as being a more shy and reserved personality. He was welcomed with open arms by teachers and students alike. Everyone made him feel included and safe and they treated him as a friend immediately. The space itself is beautiful and the children and teachers made him feel at home almost immediately. Even though he was only there for a month, he had an opportunity to participate and learn along with his peers as well as the other students in ways that fully engaged him in a way we have never seen him engaged before. For the first time in his school life he is excited about going to 'school' and eager to share about his positive experiences there. He went from a deep desire to homeschool for the rest of his schooling years, to insisting that he wanted to go back to the learning pod! It's a huge win! We are so grateful for this opportunity for him to participate in this amazing learning pod and we are looking forward to the school year!"

-Jeana

Our children are enjoying learning. The skilled professionals have taught all of the children in the pod rules for good behaviour and social etiquette without squashing their spirits. We discovered that our child who was supposed to have "learning problems" is, in fact, on target for his grade and ahead in some areas. He just really hated his previous school and refused to perform. My children are enjoying physical activity now that is isn't so formal, thus exercising more, eating better (and being allowed the time to eat enough food), and getting enjoyment from moving. They are learning to interact with kids younger and older than them and have formed some wonderful friendships. They look up to the older kids which leads to a greater desire to learn. We have daily contact with the teachers and are allowed into the learning space. We know what they are being taught and do not have to worry about agendas and politics being brought into the classroom. Within two months, any concerns we had with socialization and separation anxiety were completely gone. The reduced stress has wiped out any developmental concerns that we had because it turns out that they weren't developmental at all. I don't believe that I can do a better job than what is being done in the pod. I still have the parental right and prerogative to ADD to what my children learn. I can do activities that support what they are working on in school, or I can expose them to any other information or ideas that I want them to know. I can even propose additional ideas that might be beneficial to the pod as a collective. The learning situation here is fluid, dynamic, and exciting.

-Stephanie

"Last Spring, after homeschooling for a year and a half and struggling with online learning programs, we decided to try Freedom Teachers Alternative Learning program."

"We made the decision to homeschool our children last year, but we were overwhelmed with the responsibility of educating our children."

"I have two boys who are in grade 1 and grade 3. I decided to pull them out of the public system due to misinformation, constant uncertainty back and forth, and lack of transparency."

"We joined Freedom Teachers because the public system was doing our daughter no favors. There were so many days of tears, anxiety, and feeling hopelessly behind."

"After having had a negative experience at first in a private school, and then with public school we decided to homeschool for the 2021/22 school year. Overall our homeschooling experience was good. However, as working parents we were finding it difficult to juggle both school and our own work schedules and ultimately we felt as though our son needed more social interaction as well."

"My child just really didn't like his previous school and refused to produce work."

"Christian and Maggie provide a fun and positive environment for learning. They genuinely care about the children and foster a very nurturing atmosphere in which they and the children support one another. "

"We have seen tremendous growth in our children, My son who is was in grade 1 went from not reading at all, to reading at a grade 2 level in 6 month.

"As a parent, I can rest easy knowing that my children are in the hands of amazing teachers and surrounded by a community of children and families who want an alternative to public education and need assistance in making the transition to homeschooling."

"Since starting Freedom Teacher's Alternative Learning program my boys have been so much happier, their anxiety has gone down tremendously and they both have adjusted really well to the new environment.

"We were amazed that our grade 1 who had speech therapy all the way to 6 years old was now reading above his grade level and loving his math work at school with the other kids. Our grade 3 was doing grade 4 math at the end and was also making so many friends it truly confirmed the best decision we have ever made."

" Within a month of Freedom Teachers Alternative Learning program our daughter was back on track, not one day of tears and looking forward to every day of school. She is writing and reading above level now. I love the flexibility for her to move at a faster pace where she can, and slow down where she needs to"

"For the first time in his school life our son is excited about learning and eager to share about his positive experiences at the Freedom Teachers Alternative Learning program He went from a deep desire to homeschool for the rest of his schooling years, to insisting that he wanted to go back every day."

"We are enjoying Freedom Teachers Alternative Learning program. Our children are taught good behavior and positive social interaction."

"My children are enjoying physical activity now that is isn't so formal, thus exercising more, eating better (and being allowed the time to eat enough food), and getting enjoyment from moving."

"We have daily contact with the teachers and are allowed into the learning space. We know what they are being taught and do not have to worry about agendas and politics being brought into the classroom."

"Within two months, any concerns we had with socialization and separation anxiety were completely gone. The reduced stress has wiped out any developmental concerns that we had because it turns out that they weren't developmental at all."

"I have the parental right and prerogative to ADD to what my children learn. I can do activities that support what they are working on in school, or I can expose them to any other information or ideas that I want them to know."

Disclaimer:

Freedom Teachers is an education support network, working to connect and support families and educators through community initiative and outreach. Freedom Teachers is not an alternative education program. We are a tutoring and homeschool support service, connecting parents with educators who are exploring, and looking to take the lead in the transition to, alternative education options for their children.

Freedom Teachers does not provide education advice. Only parents know what is best for their child.

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