

The KidsAbility School Team

Each child's school team includes the child's family/caregivers, a special education teacher, educational assistant(s), and KidsAbility therapist(s). The school teams work together to develop goals and an intervention plan for each child.

The KidsAbility School provides:

- 🍏 Services for children with communication, physical and developmental disabilities
- 🍏 Early identification of the child's strengths and special needs
- 🍏 Early intervention to develop strategies that address the child's individual needs
- 🍏 Education and therapy services
- 🍏 Junior kindergarten programs that are accommodated and modified to meet each child's development
- 🍏 Staff support to the family in preparing for entry into a community school
- 🍏 Communication and collaboration with local school boards supporting the transition of students at the end of their junior kindergarten year

For those children who achieve their goals early in the school year, transitioning to the community school will take place with the support of the transition team and special education liaison teacher.



Program & Referral Program & Referral Information

KidsAbility School - WATERLOO

500 Hallmark Drive, Waterloo, ON N2K 3P5

Phone: 519-886-8886

Fax: 519-885-6222

KidsAbility School - CAMBRIDGE

c/o Chaplin Family YMCA

250 Hespeler Road, Cambridge, ON N1R 3H3

Phone: 519-621-7580

KIDSABILITY SCHOOL VISION:

Children prepared for school success.

- 🍏 KidsAbility School is one of six Section 68 schools in Ontario operating within a children's treatment centre.
- 🍏 KidsAbility School is independent of the two local school boards, and as such, has its own trustees who govern the operations and policies of the school.
- 🍏 Funding for staffing and operational expenses is provided by the Ministry of Education.
- 🍏 KidsAbility School operates half-day specialized education programs for junior kindergarten-aged children who have communication, physical and/or developmental disabilities.
- 🍏 To be eligible to attend the KidsAbility School, children must be clients of KidsAbility Centre for Child Development.
- 🍏 The one-year programs focus on early identification, early intervention and transition into community schools.
- 🍏 Therapy services are provided through KidsAbility Centre for Child Development. Teachers, parents, educational assistants and therapists work as teams to combine education and therapy in order to meet the unique needs of each child.
- 🍏 Special Education Liaison Services are also available to provide support for the transition of students to community schools. KidsAbility School operates at the Waterloo and Cambridge sites only; this service is currently not available at the Guelph location.

The Referral Process

Eligibility

- 🍏 The child has moderate to severe special needs in some or all of the following areas:
 - learning and applied knowledge
 - motor
 - self-care skills
 - communication skills
 - sensory
- 🍏 The child has limited initial strategies and equipment to support first steps toward successful functioning within a classroom and/or
- 🍏 The child has limited determination, persistence, confidence and/or resiliency.
- 🍏 The child is registered as a client at KidsAbility Centre for Child Development.
- 🍏 The child must be 4 years of age by December 31 of the year in which he/she begins Junior Kindergarten.

How to Apply

- 🍏 KidsAbility therapists who work with the child initiate the referral and complete the application, in consultation with the child's parents.
- 🍏 Applications are submitted to the Principal of KidsAbility School in February.
- 🍏 The application does not guarantee acceptance into KidsAbility School.
- 🍏 The school selection committee, in consultation with KidsAbility therapists, reviews all applications and makes placement decisions. All parents are informed of placement decisions in March and April.