
Education Program – Hayden Hall Institute, Darjeeling

Messange from HOD - Akansha Tamang

At Hayden Hall Institute, education is not limited to books and classrooms alone. We believe that every child deserves love, care, dignity, opportunity, and a safe space to grow into a confident and compassionate human being. Our Education Program is rooted in the vision of holistic development, nurturing the mind, body, emotions, values, and future aspirations of every child we work with.

Early Childhood Care and Development

Our journey with children begins through our Day Care Center, which is further divided into two programs — the Crèche and STRIVE. These spaces are designed to provide children with a joyful and nurturing environment where learning happens through play, creativity, interaction, and care. Through role play, storytelling, activities, and guided learning, children are encouraged to explore, express themselves, and build confidence from an early age.

Understanding that healthy children learn better, we place strong emphasis on nutrition and health care. Children are provided with nutritional support, regular health check-ups, and continuous monitoring of their well-being. At the same time, we work closely with parents, caregivers, and families through awareness and education sessions, helping them understand the importance of child health, hygiene, emotional care, and early learning practices at home.

For children in the STRIVE program, particularly between the age group of 3 to 4 years, we also introduce Montessori-based learning methods that encourage independence, creativity, sensory learning, and cognitive development during the most formative years of their lives.

Reaching the Unreached Through Community Education

The vision of holistic education at Hayden Hall does not stop within the walls of the institute. We strongly believe that quality education should reach every child, especially those living in remote and underserved communities where educational facilities remain limited.

To bridge this gap, Hayden Hall runs its Post School Program across rural and unreached areas of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Jalpaiguri districts. Today, the program operates through:

- ◆ 21 centers in Kalimpong
- ◆ 17 centers in Darjeeling
- ◆ 6 centers in Jalpaiguri

These centers are established in areas identified as most in need by our field teams and local communities. Community participation remains at the heart of the initiative. Teachers are selected by the community itself, ensuring ownership, trust, and sustainability of the program.

The study centers function in simple yet meaningful spaces such as samaj ghars, community halls, and village homes — transforming ordinary spaces into places of hope and learning. With a teacher-student ratio of 1:15, children receive individual attention, academic support, mentorship, and encouragement that many of them would otherwise never experience.

Beyond academics, the program focuses deeply on life values, emotional well-being, discipline, confidence-building, and character formation. We strive to create children who are not only educated but also compassionate, responsible, resilient, and empowered to dream beyond their circumstances.

Scholarship and Educational Support

Education often becomes inaccessible for children from economically vulnerable families. To ensure that financial hardship does not stop a child from learning, Hayden Hall also runs a Scholarship Program. This year, 45 students are being supported through scholarships that help them continue their education and pursue their aspirations with dignity.

Alongside scholarships, the institute actively collaborates with organizations, supporters, and government departments to mobilize resources and raise funds for children in need. Every contribution becomes a step toward keeping a child in school, giving them opportunities they may never have imagined possible.

Building Futures with Care and Compassion

At Hayden Hall Institute, education is not merely about academic success — it is about building lives. It is about standing beside children and families, especially those who are vulnerable, and creating spaces where children feel valued, protected, nourished, and inspired.

From early childhood care to community learning centers in remote villages, every effort of the institute is driven by the belief that when a child is given love, guidance, and opportunity, they can transform not only their own future but also the future of their community.

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1	Post School Program in House students	180
2	Post School Program Out reach	986
3	Day Care	78
4	Scholarship	45
TOTAL		1289

Conclusion

The Education Programme of Hayden Hall Institute reflects a deep commitment towards nurturing confident, compassionate, and empowered individuals through holistic learning and care. Through early childhood development, community-based education, scholarships, and continuous support for children from vulnerable backgrounds, the institute strives to create equal opportunities for quality education and personal growth. By combining academic learning with values, emotional well-being, and life skills, the programme continues to shape brighter futures and build stronger, more resilient communities.

Curriculum Framework for Hayden Hall Education Program

Program Component	Age Group	Focus Area	Curriculum / Activities	Expected Outcome
Crèche Program	0–3 Years	Early childhood care, nutrition, safety, and sensory development	Free play, storytelling, rhymes, music and movement, sensory activities, colour and shape recognition, outdoor play, nutrition support, hygiene habits, emotional care routines	Improved physical, emotional, sensory, and social development among children
Parent & Caregiver Education	Parents / Caregivers	Family awareness and child care support	Sessions on nutrition, hygiene, positive parenting, immunization, early childhood care, and home-based learning	Better caregiving practices and stronger support system at home
STRIVE Program	3 – 4 Years	Montessori-based holistic learning and school readiness	Alphabet and phonics learning, counting, shapes and patterns, storytelling, practical life exercises, fine motor skills, drawing, music, dance, role play, hygiene education	Improved school readiness, communication skills, confidence, creativity, and cognitive development
Language Development	3 – 4 Years	Communication and literacy skills	Vocabulary building, rhymes, storytelling, conversations, picture reading, phonics	Better speaking, listening, and early literacy skills
Early Mathematics	3 – 4 Years	Foundational numeracy skills	Number recognition, counting, matching, sorting, shapes, and patterns	Strong basic mathematical understanding
Creative & Practical Learning	3–4 Years	Creativity and independence	Clay work, colouring, crafts, pouring, folding, buttoning, sensory learning	Enhanced creativity, coordination, and self-reliance
Health & Nutrition Education	All Children	Health, hygiene, and nutrition	Nutrition support, hygiene practices, health check-ups, growth monitoring, healthy eating habits	Improved health, hygiene awareness, and nutritional status
Post School Program	6–16 Years	Academic support and holistic development	Homework support, reading and writing practice, spoken English, mathematics, science, environmental studies, individual attention learning	Improved academic performance and school retention

Life Skills Education	6–16 Years	Personality and social development	Decision-making, emotional management, teamwork, leadership, communication skills, goal setting	Increased confidence, leadership, and life skills
Value Education	6–16 Years	Moral and social values	Sessions on respect, discipline, compassion, gender equality, environmental awareness, and community participation	Responsible, compassionate, and socially aware children
Co-Curricular Activities	6–16 Years	Talent and personality development	Sports, dance, cultural activities, drawing, competitions, educational exposure visits, celebration of important days	Improved creativity, teamwork, and confidence
Community Learning Centers	6–16 Years	Access to education in remote areas	Study centers in samaj ghars, homes, and community spaces with 1:15 teacher-student ratio	Increased access to quality education in underserved communities
Scholarship Program	School-going Children	Educational continuity for vulnerable children	Scholarships, educational counseling, parent guidance, school support, fundraising support	Reduced school dropout and increased educational opportunities
Teaching Methodology	All Programs	Child-centered holistic learning	Montessori approach, play-way methods, experiential learning, inclusive education, community participation	Holistic development and active participation of children
Overall Program Goal	All Beneficiaries	Holistic child development	Education, nutrition, health, emotional support, values, and community participation	

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