



Embracing Abilities Inc.



# Curriculum Guide

2022 - 2023

# Welcome to LEAF Academy!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Hello! We are so glad you are here.

LEAF Academy is intended to be an equivalent to a college program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This post secondary program is designed to comprehensively meet the individual needs of adults ages 18-28. At LEAF Academy, our mission is to provide a comprehensive, enriching program that will allow members of our community to advance their learning and foster lifelong independence and friendships.

LEAF will provide programming consisting of classroom instruction and place-based learning (PBL). Students will work on a variety of skills to enhance independent living using research based practices and curriculums. At Embracing Abilities, we are committed to providing a team of dedicated individuals that will deliver a welcoming, inclusive environment for your loved one to grow and succeed.

We encourage you to take a look at this curriculum guide to see the skills and tasks that will be worked on throughout the semester. We are so excited to offer this program and cannot wait to watch your loved one flourish through this new phase of life.

- The LEAF Academy Team

## How To Use the Curriculum Guide:

This guide gives you a brief outline and understanding of the skills and tasks that will be worked on throughout the semester. We encourage you to use this guide as a way to support your loved one in reaching their goals outside of the classroom. Assignments, outings, and a detailed syllabus will be provided directly at the start of the semester.

# Welcome to LEAF Academy!

Dear Students,

Hello! We are so glad you are here.

We are pleased to hear of your interest in our secondary program, LEAF Academy. LEAF Academy promises exciting experiences for you and your journey throughout this next phase of life. At LEAF, you will broaden your horizons, experience leadership opportunities, establish lifelong friendships, gain real-world learning, enhance your overall independence, and, of course, have fun! The lessons and skills you learn are ones you can carry with you throughout the rest of your life.

LEAF Academy is designed to help you foster a new level of independence in living. You will work on a variety of different academic skills, functional living skills, and social emotional based skills. We encourage you to take a look at this curriculum guide to see a more detailed list of skills and tasks that will be worked on throughout the semester. We are so excited to offer this program and cannot wait to watch you flourish through this new phase of life.

- The LEAF Academy Team

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## // Curriculum In The Classroom

At LEAF Academy, our mission is to provide a comprehensive, enriching program that will allow members of our community to advance their learning and foster lifelong independence and friendships. Our instructors will work with your loved one to strengthen many different skills and enhance their independence within the community. Listed below are some of the topics our curriculum will cover.

### Functional Living Skills

- Health & Wellness
  - Self-Care
  - Nutrition
  - Self Determination & Advocacy
- Home Living Skills
  - Leisure & Independent Skills
  - Cleaning
  - Cooking
- Personal Finance
  - Budgeting & Saving
  - Financial Goals
- Employment
  - Career Path
  - Resume Building
  - Interview Skills
  - Time Management
  - Collaboration

### Academic-Based Skills

- Reading & Writing Intervention
- Math Intervention
- Technology Development

### Social Emotional Based Skills

- Positive Peer Relationships
- Community Integration & Participation
- Socialization
- Thoughts, Feelings, & Actions
- Oral & Written Communication



# // Understanding Place-Based Learning

Using principles of Place-Based Learning (PBL), our consumers will experience learning through natural, hands on, real world experiences. They will engage with their community and environment to continue their journey as contributing, active citizens.

## Defining Principles of PBL

- Embeds learning and views the community as a classroom
- Centered on individual learners
- Inquiry based to help students develop an understanding of their place in the world
- Incorporates local and global thinking and investigations
- Requires design thinking to find solutions to authentic problems
- Interdisciplinary approach



**At LEAF, our students will focus on strengthening a set of employability skills through each project. These include collaboration, growth mindset, oral communication, written communication, and more. We will address real world problems/challenges and receive additional support through a community outing or bringing in a community-based professional.**

"Emphasizing hands-on, real-world learning experiences, the place-based learning approach to education increases academic achievement, helps students develop stronger ties to their community, enhances students' appreciation for the natural world, and creates a heightened commitment to serving as active, contributing citizens. Community vitality and environmental quality are improved through the active engagement of local citizens, community organizations, and environmental resources in the life of the school."

- Sobel, 2004



## Have a question?

Contact us at (317) 825-8326 or  
[info@leaf-indy.org](mailto:info@leaf-indy.org).

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