

Happy School De ToverWijzer

Consciousness based education – Tienen/Belgium

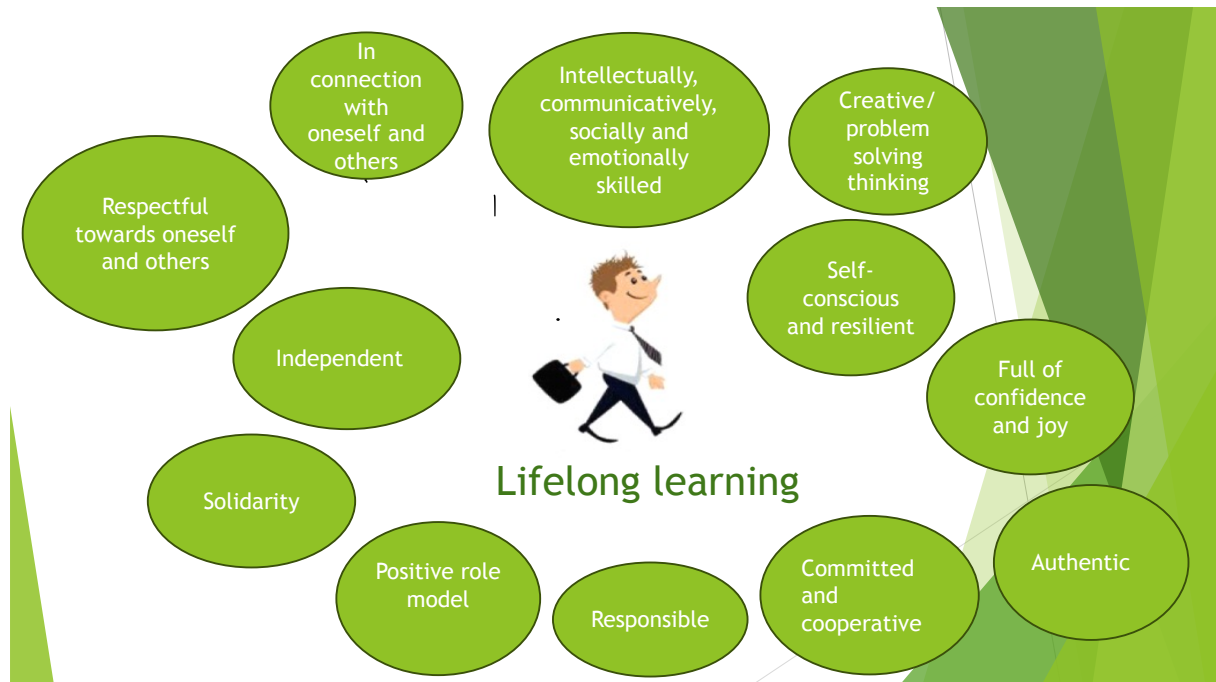
www.toverwijzer.be



Introduction

At De ToverWijzer, our mission is to create a warm and nurturing school environment where children thrive and become the best version of themselves. A school where (self-)awareness is at the core and every child can fully develop their intelligence, creativity, emotional and social skills. We aim to empower our children to grow into young adults who can navigate an increasingly complex world, find creative solutions to emerging challenges, remain curious, lifelong learners, and lead fulfilling and happy lives.

We guide our children throughout their journey from early childhood to young adulthood. From preschool through elementary school years, children are more and more susceptible to impressions of the world directly around them. The imprints we leave at this stage, will last a lifetime. So we spent a considerable time envisioning the imprint we would like to leave - What would an 'ideal' adult look like?



A unique learning environment rooted in connection

To reach this vision, we cultivate a specific educational environment based on warm, trusting relationships between students, teachers, parents, and the wider community. We live by our values and equip our students with life skills they can apply according to their own needs:



- **The power of joy and well-being**

It's every parent's and teacher's dream to see a child head off to school with a smile and a sense of curiosity. The challenge is to make that dream a daily reality. Children feel excited about school when they know it's a place where they are accepted, valued, and free to be themselves—that they are seen not just for what they know, but for who they are. The ToverWijzer offers such an environment: we provide direction while encouraging children to find their own path, where growth is celebrated, and where each child is supported and challenged at their own pace.

- **Growth mindset**

Well-being doesn't mean a life without challenges. We foster self-confidence, belief in one's own abilities and inner calm to say, *"I can't do this yet, but I can learn."* Obstacles become growth opportunities, and growth leads to meaningful success.

- **Holistic child development & Balanced curriculum**

Success in today's world demands more than cognitive skills. To nurture the unique potential in every child, we prioritize broad personality development. Our curriculum fosters academic skills, creativity, emotional understanding and resilience. We teach mindful communication

and emphasize on cooperation and critical thinking. We meet national curriculum goals, while emphasizing 21st-century skills like navigating complex information and engaging in meaningful learning. A healthy mind in a healthy body is our guiding principle.

- **Resilience and Meditation**

Neuroscience shows us how stress impacts learning. When children feel unsafe or uncertain, their brains cannot engage in exploration or learning. We create a safe emotional space and equip children with tools to handle stress through meditation, emotional awareness and mindful communication. This fosters resilience and lifelong emotional intelligence.

Children who learn to recognize their emotions learn to deal with them better, which means there is little to no bullying at school.

- **Recognizing the innate Learning Power in every child**

Children are naturally curious and eager to learn. From infancy, they explore the world with wonder. Our task is not to *create* motivation, but to preserve and nourish their innate drive to learn, discover and grow. We aim to design education that protects and strengthens this inner learning power.

- **Play-based, active and project-based learning**

At DeToverWijzer, we witness the power of play-based, active and project-based learning on a daily basis. Our students take initiative, work collaboratively and engage in self-directed exploration. For more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.toverwijzer.be/documenten/pedagogisch-project/>

- **The power of relationships, trust, and connecting communication**

Teachers at DeToverWijzer are mentors who guide from a place of deep trust in each child's capacity to learn and grow.

Children develop self-regulation, communication and empathy through relationships. That's why we place great emphasis on relational quality. Authentic teacher-student connections rooted in respect, open communication and acceptance, foster deep learning. We aim to raise independent, motivated individuals who value themselves and others.

Each student has a unique personality. We strive to connect sensitively, responsively and authentically with every child.

The quality of education depends on the quality of our teachers.

Teachers in our school have great academic skills, but we place equal importance on emotional awareness and mindful communication skills, open-mindedness and a desire to learn. Our teachers teach by example - that requires a high level of self-awareness. We give high priority to the well-being of our teachers. Their state of mind has a direct impact on our students and the overall quality of the education we provide. On a daily basis,

we cultivate an atmosphere of safety and cooperation for our team, we provide tools and space to release stress and we offer coaching. Every day, we try to accommodate a class-free moment to be used as needed (preparation, administration, meditation, a walk in the park...)

- **Respect for individuality and diversity**

Every child is unique, yet all children share a need for respect, warmth and a nurturing environment. Just like seeds that require light and water, children need safety, structure, and emotional support. We honor diverse learning styles—some learn by reading, others by doing, dancing, singing, or group discovery. We diversify in learning speed and need of independence.

- **Meaningful homework and holistic assessment**

At the end of each day, we take a 'Heli-time' moment—children metaphorically rise in a helicopter and look back on the day from above. Through discussion and peer explanation, they consolidate their learning. In line with our philosophy, we only assign homework when it is meaningful: automatising, reading or preparing for projects that bridge home and school life.

We assess all skills on an equivalent basis, always in relation to the whole process. In this evaluation we give a voice to both the student and the teacher.

- **A school community built together**

We believe in shared authority and cooperative values. That's why we foster:

- A cooperative school structure
- The *New Authority* approach (based on Haim Omer's vision)
- Active parent participation
- Parents supporting other parents – *Parents for parents*

In a changing world where traditional authority is questioned, we embrace a model based on shared responsibility, boundaries with warmth and respectful guidance.

- **In connection with nature: A Green School**

Recently, we built a new school building, using natural and sustainable materials and techniques. The realization of this project was carried collectively, both financially and operationally: contractors, architects, parents and children, teachers and staff, the board of directors, the neighbourhood and sympathizers, government and businesses all contributed. Together we accomplished this great project - a healthy and safe place in connection with the environment to make school.

A natural environment inspires learning, play and responsibility. Our school is set in the middle of a beautiful garden where the children can run, build forts and climb, where they can do gardening and care for animals. We teach outdoors as much as possible and enjoy the quiet spots to turn inward. Children learn to care for their environment and develop a deep respect for nature. We minimize waste and use sustainable, ecological materials both inside and outside the school—wooden furniture, natural toys, seasonal materials, and more.

Twice a week, our wonderful cook comes to our school to prepare a fresh and nutritious lunch. We promote wholesome eating habits and support children's physical well-being through conscious food choices.

- **Active citizenship and a broad school**

We encourage children to engage with themes from society, form their own reasoned opinions and contribute actively and positively to the world. We participate in local projects - we sing for the elderly, clean the litter around our school, gather toys for less fortunate children, Through dialogue, empathy, cooperation and respect for diversity, our students grow into socially engaged citizens.

The participatory culture at De ToverWijzer—grounded in communication, cooperation, and reflection—offers children daily opportunities to practice democracy in action.

By celebrating learning, we celebrate life every day at De ToverWijzer.

In this rich and nurturing learning environment, we see children grow into happy, self-conscious, authentic and enthusiastic young adults who are eager to learn and continue evolving into the best version of themselves. Well-being and excellence—in the broadest sense of the word—go hand in hand.

To learn more about our teaching method and the techniques we use, please visit:

<https://www.toverwijzer.be/documenten/pedagogisch-project/>