

# Foundations in Independent Learning



**oak meadow**

INDEPENDENT LEARNING SINCE 1975

# Foundations in Independent Learning

## Orientation

**A teacher training course based on  
Oak Meadow's philosophy  
and curriculum**

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## Course Orientation

Welcome to Oak Meadow's Foundations in Independent Learning course.

This is an online training to orient you to Oak Meadow's philosophy and curriculum so that you can better implement our academic program with your students. This course provides you with an approach to teaching and learning that is based on an educational philosophy that is child-centered and holistic. Oak Meadow curriculum is designed to encourage students to be invested and engaged in their own learning and to focus more on the process than on the product.

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Foundations in Independent Learning presents **a new perspective on the role of the teacher and the student/teacher relationship.**

This course helps you build a foundational understanding of how students learn and how to use the Oak Meadow curriculum to encourage each student to explore his or her potential.

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This course is primarily intended for teachers who will be using Oak Meadow with their students in charter schools, independent schools, independent study programs, learning centers, distance learning schools, and homeschool cooperatives. It is also relevant for homeschooling parents who are providing academic support to their students at home.

While some of the material is specific to Oak Meadow curriculum, much of it is relevant to any program, parent, or teacher that nurtures and guides students in independent learning.

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If you are a teacher, you can use the sections aimed at parents to better understand the role of the parent in supporting the independent learner at home. This can help you become a more useful resource for the families of your students.

If you are the parent of a homeschooler, you can use the sections designed for teachers and schools to better understand the student/teacher relationship. You may find this information helps you become a better teacher for your child.

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## About This Training

In this course, you can expect to:

- *Explore relevant perspectives of the learning process*
- *Gain insight into how to best support independent learners*
- *Understand how to implement independent learning curriculum effectively in a variety of settings*
- *Explore best practices and useful tools in distance learning*

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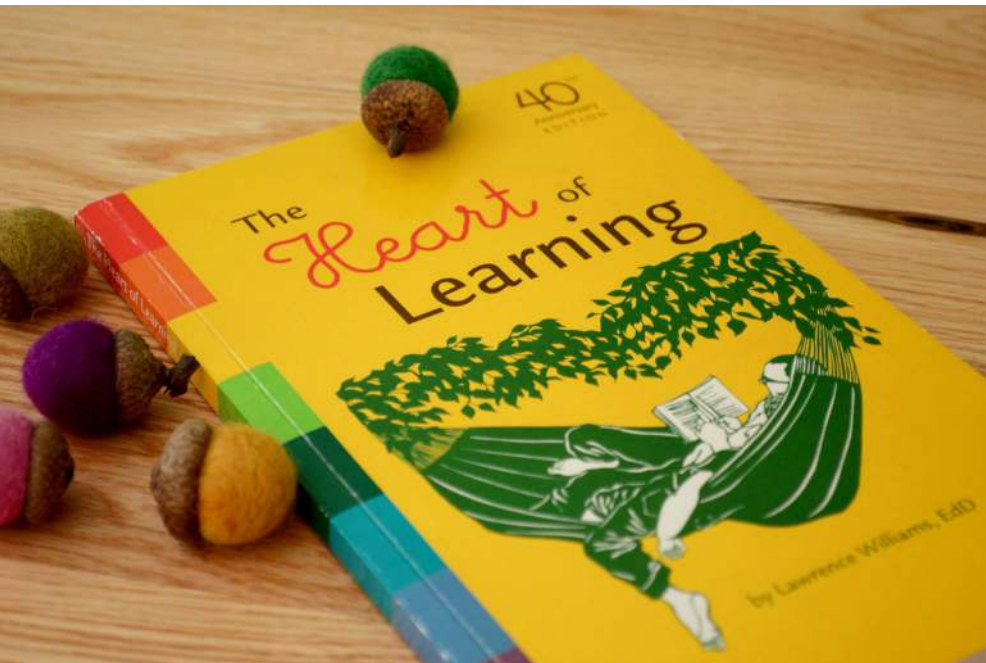
The **Foundations in Independent Learning** has **six modules** (in addition to this orientation module), each of which requires about two hours to complete. Each module focuses on a different element of learning and distance teaching, and allows the participant to explore the material through self-reflection, supplemental reading and viewing, and a variety of writing tasks.

Within the modules we will use a variety of technological tools to help familiarize you with some options for enhancing a distance learning experience.

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The book, *The Heart of Learning*, by Oak Meadow cofounder Lawrence Williams, is an integral part of this course and may be purchased separately (either in print or digital form).

All other supplemental materials are included in the course as online links.

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Foundations in Independent Learning is **asynchronous and self-paced**, meaning you can begin anytime and move through the material at your own pace.

For those working in groups, you may want to read the slides aloud, pausing for discussion as needed. The assignments found at the end of each module can be completed independently and discussed at the beginning of the next meeting.

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### Recommendations for completing the course:

- *Dedicate two or more hours per day in order to maintain momentum and complete the course within one week.*
- *Work through the course with a group or another teacher over the course of six weeks to open additional opportunities for discussion and collaboration.*

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## Course Assignments

Throughout the course you will be prompted with “**Your Turn**” questions, which ask you to reflect on the information to shape your own ideas. You are encouraged to write down your answers to these questions to help form your thoughts more fully with greater intention. If you are working in a group, these prompts can be used as discussion points.



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At the end of each module, you will find reading and writing assignments to help you gain a deeper understanding of the material.

It is highly recommended that each assignment be completed before moving forward to the next reading passage, assignment, or module. Consider these assignments as another learning tool designed to help you gain insight and expand your teaching toolkit.

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## Course Outline

**Module 1:** The Building Blocks of Independent Learning

**Module 2:** Creating an Effective Learning Environment

**Module 3:** Supporting the Learning Process from a Developmental Perspective

**Module 4:** Implementing the K-6 Curriculum in Various Settings

**Module 5:** Implementing the 7-12 Curriculum in Various Settings

**Module 6:** Authentic Evaluation and Assessment

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Throughout each module, you will find resources and reading materials, all of which are included in the **Resource and Reading List** at the end of the course.

It is highly recommended that each assignment be completed before moving forward to the next reading passage, assignment, or module. Consider these assignments as another learning tool designed to help you gain insight and expand your teaching toolkit.

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We hope you find both inspiration and practical guidance as you explore Oak Meadow's **Foundations in Independent Learning**.



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### *About Oak Meadow*

A leader in independent learning since 1975, Oak Meadow provides flexible, progressive homeschooling curriculum for students in kindergarten to grade 12. Our child-centered, nature-based approach allows families to set their own natural rhythm of learning and encourages creativity, critical thinking, and intellectual development through hands-on activities and interdisciplinary projects.

[www.oakmeadow.com](http://www.oakmeadow.com)