



MONTESSORI
NURSERY SCHOOL

Prospectus

The Caterpillar Montessori Nursery School

St Alban's Church

South Parade

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Dear Parents,

The Caterpillar Montessori Nursery School opened in September 1989 and is an independent school registered by Ofsted. We are also one of very few Nursery Schools to be accredited by the 'Montessori Evaluation and Accreditation Board'.

I am the owner of the school and qualified from the Montessori St Nicholas training College in 1986. For five years from 1992, I was a trustee of the college and was involved in new developments within the Montessori Method and education of new teachers.

I now live in Oxfordshire with my husband and three children.

Choosing a school for your child is not an easy task, you want a place where they are treated and respected as an individual and where they feel comfortable in their new environment. A child's first school experience has a great effect on their future feelings concerning school and the learning process and it is vitally important to make a wise decision affecting these early stages of development.

I hope you enjoy reading our Prospectus and it culminates in you visiting us at the school.

Kind Regards,

**Melanie Haward
Owner**

The Montessori Philosophy

The Montessori Method of Education is based on Dr Maria Montessori's observations of children in Italy. Through these observations she developed her philosophy based on concept of allowing children to develop at their own pace and to experience events themselves. A Montessori classroom will have certain consistent elements. The class is laid out in such a way as to encourage children to choose an activity with which they wish to work, and they then complete in within their own timeframe. Maria Montessori found that given the opportunity to choose for themselves, children are attracted to activities that will best serve their needs at a given time of development. Children are naturally inquisitive and rather than repeating an already mastered skill they will be drawn to a new experience.

Allowing children to work at their own pace, without interruption, aids the development of concentration and independence.

Montessori Materials

The Montessori classroom provides an environment that aids independence and confidence where every child is treated as an individual and where they can fulfil their full potential. Everything in the classroom is appealing to the child and the teachers respect the child's need.

Specific materials have been developed to assist a child's learning in each of the five main areas of the Montessori Method. Children love order and being able to put things in the correct order helps their understanding of a given subject. In a Montessori classroom the child builds on the knowledge they already have and develop ideas to gain further understanding.

Activities of Everyday Living- These exercises are designed to teach children life skills. Children are instinctively drawn to carry out activities that see adults performing. The fundamental feature of Activities of Everyday Living is that the activity is real and all items can be found in the home. Maria Montessori also recognised that all cultures have their own identities and therefore a teacher needs to be aware of everyone's cultural background and the materials should reflect this.

Sensorial- These materials were designed by Maria Montessori to help a child isolate one defining quality: size, colour, weight, shape, texture, sound and smell. The material allows them to classify sensorial impressions in an orderly manner. The Sensorial materials are mathematically graded and allow a child to work individually and to repeat the exercise until perfected. The Sensorial Materials contain a 'control of error' which ensures that an exercise can only be completed if done correctly and therefore helps the skill of problem solving and reasoning.

Language- When the children are ready they begin to learn their alphabet phonetically, the materials are simple but help to develop a child's language by using Sandpaper Letters which give the shape of the letters; a Moveable Alphabet, which allows them to arrange letters to form words; and the Insets for design which allow a child to begin writing letters.

Mathematics- Number work is introduced after the children has done a great deal of work with the Activities of Everyday Living and Sensorial materials. In number work quantity is taught first, then the written symbol and finally the two are combined. Children also explore different shapes, both in 2 and 3 dimensions.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World- A child's knowledge of the world around them was very important to Maria Montessori, and children are made aware on a daily basis of changes in their environment by exploring and questioning it. Through exploration the children learn about different cultures, religions, nature, botany, history, geography, conservation etc.

Classes

We offer places to children from 2 years old to 5 years old. There is the facility for them to stay until 4.00 pm on certain days for different clubs. We currently offer: Art Attack, Weird Science and Karate.

With the over 3s we have a staff/pupil ratio of 1:8 and with the under 3s a staff/pupil ratio of 1:4.

Teacher Staff

The majority of our teachers are Montessori trained. We select our staff carefully not only on the basis of their qualifications and experience, but also on their ability to interact with young children. They are trained to recognise and respect the individual needs of all the children. All of our staff have been closely vetted and references are taken up for the security and welfare of the children. The School operates on equal opportunities policy and does not discriminate. We have on-going training and workshops in all aspects of childcare.

Daily Routine

Included in the curriculum is Cooking, Art, Singing, Role play and various activities for Physical Development.

Opening Times

The School is open in term times from 8:00 am for Breakfast Club. School begins at 9:00am-4:00pm Monday to Thursday and 9:00 am -12:30 pm on a Friday.

Registration

To register your child at The Caterpillar Montessori Nursery School please complete the Registration Form and return it to the school correspondence address, together with a non-refundable registration fee of 30.00

Early Education Entitlement

Your child becomes eligible for the grant the term after they have turned three years old.

Childcare Vouchers

These are some of the vouchers we currently accept: Edenred, Computershare, Care-4 or individual employer schemes as payment of our invoice.

Ofsted Inspection

Our last inspection was in January 2017. The full report can be seen on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Montessori Accreditation

We were re-accredited in May 2018

A Waiting List

it is maintained and parents are advised to complete and return the Registration Form with a 30 fee as soon as possible. You will be notified of a place 3 terms before enrolment at which time you will be asked for a 500 deposit.

