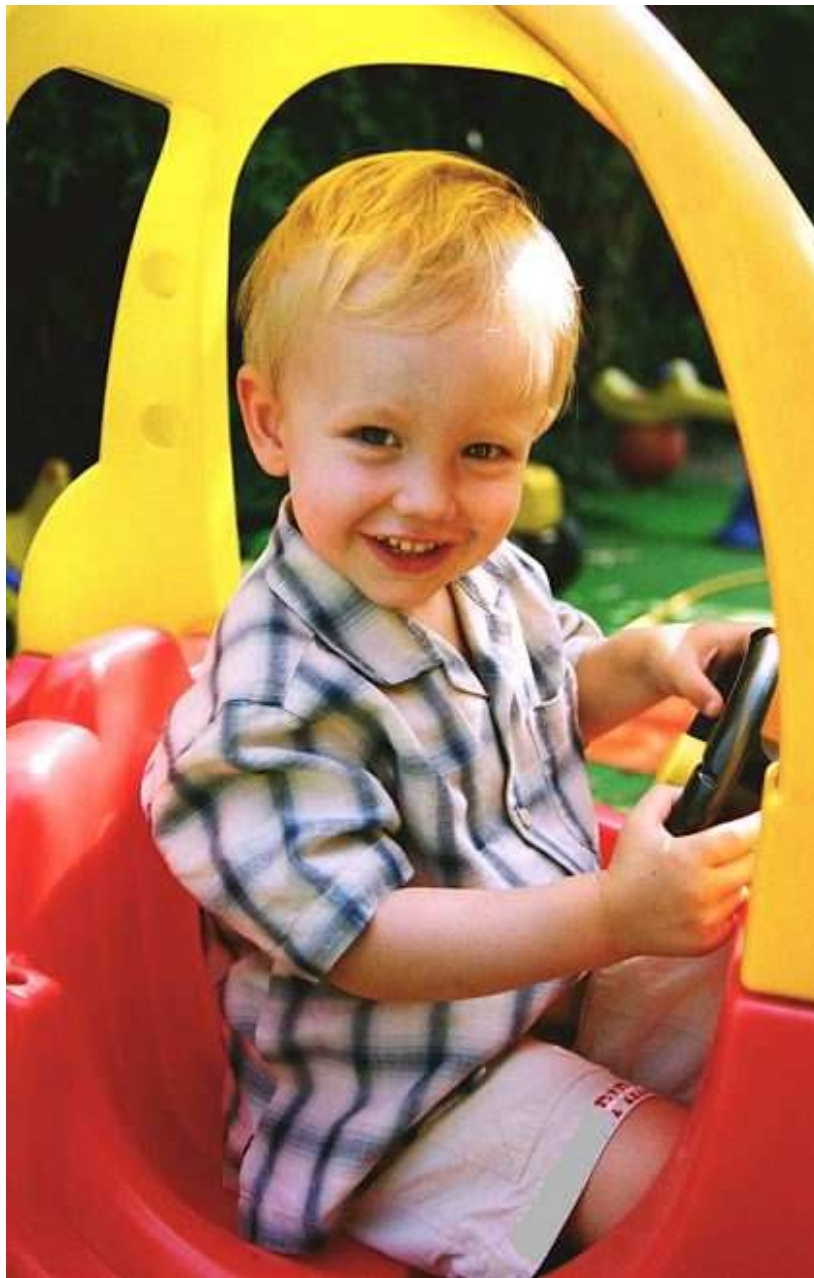


Gina's Montessori Nursery School
Sound Foundations



PROSPECTUS

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Our Ethos:

Provision of a safe, caring, supportive, learning environment

Aims and Policies

This nursery aims to provide a safe, calm, supportive setting for children's preschool years.

Each child should always feel valued and happy as they go about their activities.

Time is taken to listen to the children in groups and on a one to one basis. The children are encouraged to develop listening skills.

Each adult working with the children is caring, good humoured, and patient in her approach. Our commitment to the Montessori philosophy and to the foundation stage curriculum ensures high quality provision for the children. Learning is grouped into 7 areas:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication & language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development

This nursery aims to continually update and improve all aspects. Suggestions and comments from parents are always welcome.

Children are keen learners and our job is to help them to understand their world. This nursery provides a stretching and challenging approach to learning.

Parents can contact the nursery throughout the year to discuss their child's progress/development. We provide daily updates and detailed progress notes twice per year.

Premises

The nursery school is located on the ground floor of a family house. The lounge, toilet facilities, and conservatory opening out onto a large secure garden, are used exclusively for the nursery school.

Much of the garden is covered in soft Astroturf enabling garden play throughout the year.

Session Times

3 hour sessions : 8.30 – 11.30 a.m. ; 1 – 4 p.m.

4.5 hour sessions : 8.30 - 1pm; 11.30 – 4p.m.

7.5 hour sessions : 8.30 - 4 p.m.

Staffing

There 3 members of staff working with the group of 14 children. The nursery supervisor, Gina Ferriter, has been teaching young children for over 25 years. The nursery workers are a very stable team and have been working at this nursery for many years.

Staff are suitably qualified:

- CPD – M.A. degree – Integrated Provision for Children and Families
- B.A. degree in Early Years Studies
- Montessori Teaching Diplomas
- Degree level courses in Child Psychology and Education
- Teaching Certificate (SEN) Primary
- Child Protection Training of all staff
- First Aid training – all staff

Personal, social and emotional development

The children are encouraged to play fairly, and to be caring and considerate towards each other. They learn to work effectively both independently and as part of a group. Personal care and care of the environment is promoted. The children develop a sense of competence by doing as much as possible for themselves.

We recognise the importance of letting children develop their ideas and explore new learning. We encourage active learning and help the children to become focused, enabling better concentration.

The Montessori approach gives the child the freedom to work and play in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The children become great friends in a caring setting as they learn to share and take turns.

Communication, Language & Literacy

The nursery supervisor is a Montessori teacher and holds a further qualification to teach language and literacy throughout the primary years.

Emphasis is placed on listening to the children both on a one to one and in groups.

This has the effect of increasing vocabulary and fluency. Stories, songs, rhymes, poems, and creating their own stories form part of the nursery experience. Storyboards, picture sequences and letter sounds are some of the steps towards reading.

The Montessori approach to early reading and early mark making uses a multi-sensory method and proves very suitable and successful for this age group.

The children are introduced to French through games and activities designed to develop their interest in the language. Children are naturally attuned to learning language in their early years.

Mathematics

The children enjoy numerous activities and materials which develop their understanding of numbers - describing shapes, position, size, and quantity.

The children soon recognise and record numbers. They enjoy counting and number games.

The Montessori method employs sound building blocks, facilitating a clear understanding of early mathematics.

The nursery supervisor is qualified to identify patterns associated with learning difficulties, and to design support materials for pupils throughout the primary years.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

A wide range of topics are covered throughout the year. The purpose of these topics is to enable the children to build up an understanding of themselves, their families, friends, and their environment. We promote enjoyment, respect and awareness of cultural and religious events.

Emphasis is placed on the importance of listening to the children's questions and providing appropriate replies, balanced with encouragement to find solutions to problems. Science investigations are enjoyed enormously by the children.

Creative Development

Arts & Craft activities give children opportunity to work with various materials. They learn to use scissors, fold, join, thread lace, glue, print, paint etc.

Malleable materials are always available i.e. play dough/clay.

The children use a wide range of musical instruments. They enjoy listening, clapping, dancing, singing and action songs. There is a piano and a keyboard at the nursery school.

Physical Development

The children learn to move about confidently within the group through day-to-day activities, and through music and movement. They use many tools/materials to improve dexterity – play cutlery, play dough accessories, magnets, buckles, laces, collage making etc.

Outdoor play in a large secure garden is available to the children throughout the year. Most children would agree that outdoor play is the most enjoyable time throughout their school years. It is of course very healthy for the children – building muscle, strong bones and vitamin D levels. The outdoor play facilities include – balancing beams, basketball, tennis, football, slide, tunnel, tents, beanbags, hoops, hop scotch, cars, pedal bikes, junior golf, a large sand pit and a water play table.

Library/Computer skills

Every opportunity is taken to encourage the enjoyment of stories, books, rhymes, songs and print in general. **A library system is in place whereby the children take home a book of their choice. The children are very enthusiastic about choosing books. Care of books is encouraged.**

The children are very keen to learn how to use the computer. Each child is given individual instruction throughout the year. They learn to use the computer independently and print out their work.

Home-School Relationship

This nursery is committed to continually improving all aspects of the facility. Parents are welcome to discuss their child's progress throughout the year. Daily updates are provided. Parents' and children's input is encouraged. Written progress notes are presented at the end of the autumn and summer terms. The parents are very supportive of the nursery school.

The nursery develops successful and effective partnerships with parents. Parents are the child's first educator and a working partnership between nursery and parents enables the child to fulfil their potential.

The parents help develop the children's topic work at home – the children then return to nursery to share their ideas. This practice helps the children to grow in self-confidence, in general knowledge and improves their ability to express ideas.

Special Needs

Early identification of any learning difficulty is very important. The nursery Supervisor has specialist qualification in this area. The curriculum is modified or extended accordingly. The nursery group size (12/3) significantly benefits learning during the pre-school years.

One to one provision can be arranged for the duration of the child's preschool years where necessary.

Behaviour Management

The children are at the early stages of developing social skills. This nursery promotes a caring atmosphere within which the children begin to understand right from wrong. Emphasis is placed on promoting good social skills and enabling each child to develop high self esteem. Punishment of any description is not used at this nursery. Observational records may be made and liaison with parents sought. The children develop self-discipline through understanding, discussion and respect.

Child Protection

The prime responsibility within the nursery is to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. The nursery has a duty to the children to act quickly and responsibly in any instances that come to our attention, and will liaise with parents where appropriate.

All staff including volunteers and student placements working with the children undergo statutory checks. The staff are committed to all the nursery policies and procedures.

Only the normal collector is permitted to collect the child unless prior permission has been obtained.

Health and Safety

This nursery school is a calm, well-organized environment. Health and safety is the top priority. The nursery has been running since 1987 and thankfully there has never been an accident. The children are supervised at all times. **Risk assessment is carried out on a continual basis.**

Equal opportunities

The workers at this nursery are committed to an equal opportunities policy. We encourage the children to treat others with consideration and respect and to expect to be treated likewise. We do not tolerate discrimination on the grounds of race, creed, class, gender, disability or age. We also believe in equal opportunity in terms of the children's learning. Staff are aware of the importance of classroom practice in promoting equal opportunities e.g. use of lists, wall displays, images and activities. **Each child is provided with materials and a programme appropriate to his/her ability and interest.**

Illness and absence

Parents are required to inform the school as soon as possible if a child contracts an infectious illness. Children with stomach upsets can return to nursery 48 hours after the finish of the symptoms.

With regard to missed sessions, we do try to make an alternative session available wherever possible.

Medicines

Children will be permitted to take **medically prescribed medicines only**. These must be handed **by the parents** to the nursery school Supervisor.

Medicines must be clearly labelled, with the name of the child, dosage and frequency of intake. Parents must complete an authorisation form before medicines can be given.

Summary

This is the longest established Montessori nursery school in Enfield. **The staff qualifications are of the highest standard. All aspects of the nursery school are continually updated and improved.**

Group size in the preschool years is of particular importance. Research shows that when the group size increases beyond sixteen, the learning benefits decrease, regardless of the number of staff. Preschool children are not ready for the dynamics of the larger group size. As we know children often do cope in larger groups. However, such group sizes are not favourable environments for the developing child. **This awareness of the developing needs of the child has dictated the group size of this nursery school.**

Children learn more easily in a relaxed and natural setting. This fact influenced the choice of location for this nursery. It is located on the ground floor of a family house exclusively for the use of the nursery school. The children settle very quickly and become confident, capable, happy children. They make a very good transition into primary school. **Their well developed self esteem and general capability holds throughout future years.**

One of the characteristics of the Montessori approach is that it places emphasis on the development of the whole child. **Language, socialising, practical skills, self-awareness, reading, writing, numerical skills, discrimination of colour, form and sound are the building blocks of early education.**