



Prospectus

Linzi Perrins, Principal

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank you for your interest in this Nursery School. The school opened for its first term in September 2002. As the school's principal, I have adopted the Montessori method of teaching as it gives young children the best opportunity to develop to their full potential in many aspects.

I have over 25 years' experience in childcare and over 17 years' teaching in the Montessori method.

I trained at the Montessori Centre International in London, and I have the full teaching Diploma for children aged two to six years as well as a BA(Hons) in Early Years and Childcare.

Please visit our website: www.thecolourbox.org.

With best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linzi Perrins', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Linzi Perrins
Principal, The Colour Box

The Montessori Teaching Method

Dr Maria Montessori was the founder of this unique method of teaching young children. She initially observed children and how they learn. Unlike conventional teaching, which often instructs and installs knowledge from outside, Dr Montessori discovered that every child is gifted with a will and love for learning, a so-called inner teacher. Her approach therefore was to assist and guide a child, meeting their needs to help them reach their maximum learning potential and to unfold their unique personality.

The essence of Montessori education is that every child is treated with respect, given freedom within the limits of a carefully structured environment and allowed to develop naturally at his or her own pace.

Based on her findings, Dr Montessori developed her own teaching materials and changed the role of the traditional teacher. With the right approach children learn willingly, so the Montessori teacher is gentle, sympathetic and full of encouragement. She/he provides the stimulus and inspiration for the child to learn and progress. As a friendly helper, she/he is always at hand to guide and encourage positive attitudes and help create well-balanced individuals.

Once settled, a child is free to choose his* own activity. He is usually taught on a one-to-one basis, to encourage maximum response, but never pressured into learning or rushed in any way. This in turn promotes confidence and independence. Children are involved in different activities, working alongside each other therefore learning to respect one another and form friendships.

The Montessori method of teaching has been accepted in almost every culture in the world. The curriculum embraces practical life exercise, sensorial education, language and mathematics and all the cultural and creative subjects.

*the use of the words he or his infers both genders

GENERAL INFORMATION

The school hours are:

Mornings:

9.00 a.m. – 12 noon, Monday to Friday

Full days:

9.00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Mondays * This service will only be offered providing we have a minimum of 10 children signed up for the afternoon session, for each term. The afternoon provision will be suspended if we do not have enough children attending afternoons at any given time.

The school will operate during term times only. There are three terms a year, each term is usually eleven weeks long and although holidays differ each year, we will endeavour to co-ordinate with other schools in the area.

All teaching staff are fully qualified and carefully chosen. Each teacher works with a group of 4-8 children and may be assisted by students during their training. Our ratios are as follows:

For staff trained up to Level 5

2-3 years require a ratio of 1:4

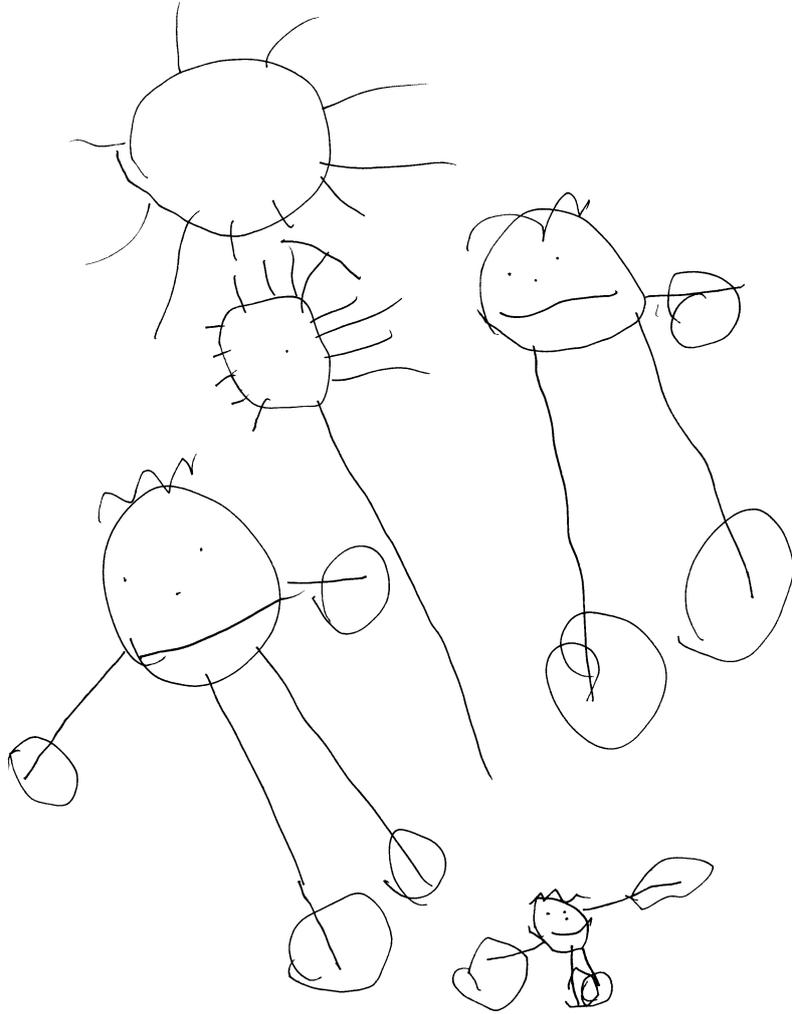
3-5 years require a ratio of 1:8

For staff trained at Level 6 and above

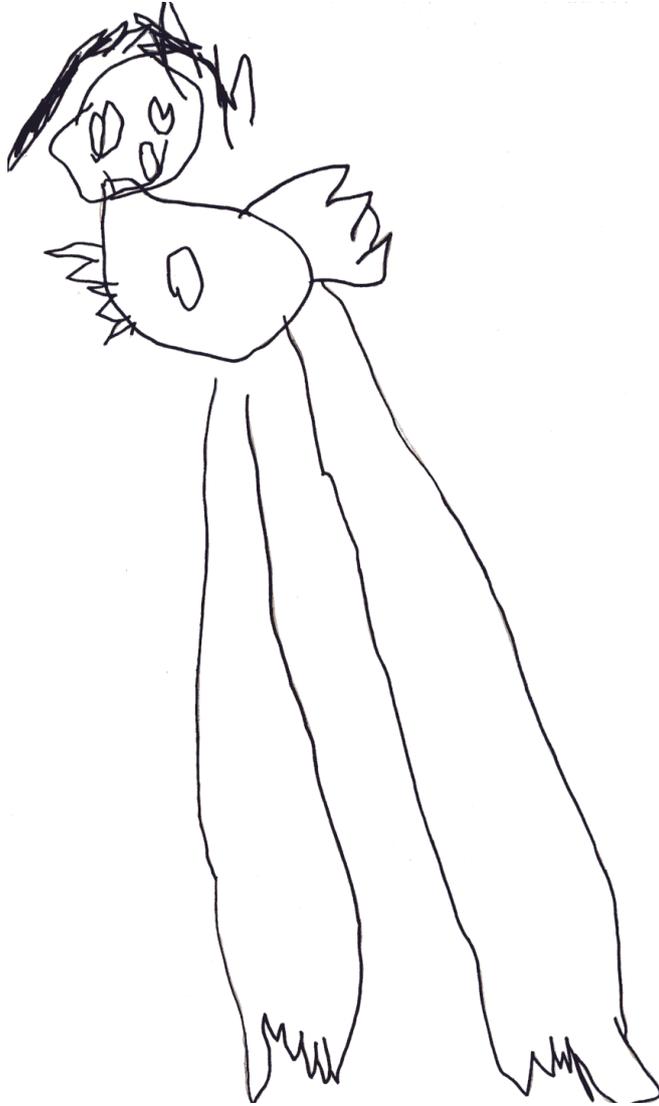
2-3 years require a ratio of 1:4

3-5 years require a ratio of 1:13

Drawing by a child age 3



Drawing by a child age 4



Start of a Nursery School Life and a Child's Progress

A child starting with us at the age of two and a half or three has the benefit of the early learning foundation within the Montessori structure and optimum chances to complete the whole teaching cycle at rising five. At the age of two and a half or three, we aim to bridge the gap between home and school life. Initially a child might prefer to work with familiar material like puzzles, beads or building bricks but often starts with early practical life exercises like pouring, folding or polishing. He will then be introduced to sensorial education and the corresponding learning materials.

Each child is assigned to a teacher who observes him closely and records his progress. Although the child himself dictates the pace of learning, his teacher will help with the difficulties, stimulate his interests and will spot his readiness to progress to stages ahead.

At the end of the first term and third term we hold parent evenings, where parents can talk to their child's teacher and discuss his progress.

Universal Entitlement of 15 Hours Free Early Education and Childcare

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a 15 hours free Place for 3 hours per day, for up to 5 days a week and for 33 weeks of the year. This is a private nursery and additional services and charges will be added for Staff, Building Rent, Montessori Equipment and Montessori Training, Ongoing Administration Costs, Stationary, Toys, Art Supplies and Gym Apparatus. This list is not inclusive. Parents must sign to agree to our additional services package if they are claiming the universal hours and pay our additional charges each term.

Special Educational Needs

We show commitment to include children with special needs and disabilities within the setting, and have an appointed member of staff as our Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator.

The School Day

At the beginning of a session the children are welcomed by a member of staff at the door, helped to take off their coats and guided into the classroom. Tables may be laid out with different things to do but any child is free to work with materials of their choice. Simultaneously, individual teaching is given to children according to their ability within the Montessori Learning Progression. Children are encouraged to finish what they do and to return all materials tidily afterwards, to take pride in their achievements and to perform to the best of their ability.

The children have group snack mid-morning, parents are encouraged to bring fruit in from home, which the children share.

Once a week, the children will enjoy music and movement lessons, a sports lesson, a ballet lesson as well as a French lesson. Some cooking throughout the term will also take place. Topics will change every half term.

We spend time each session in a circle. This is the time for 'news', singing, rhymes etc. Children often show interesting items, which they have brought with them. At the end of the session, the children are helped to put their coats on and get ready to go home. Each child is called and handed over at the door, to the parent or adult collecting them.

Admissions

A waiting list will be in operation. Siblings of children already attending the school will have preference of admission.

A place is normally offered for the term in which the child's second birthday occurs (unless otherwise requested on the registration form) and written offers are sent around the previous half term.

Terms and conditions

A registration fee (non-returnable) of £60.00 is charged. This does not, however, guarantee a place. A deposit of £500.00 is also charged; this will be returned at the end of your child's final term, providing the correct written notice of one term is given. If you decide not to take the place before your child starts the deposit will not be returned to you.

The current rate of fees is £1,925 per term (for a five session week). In addition ballet classes are charged at £60 per term on Tuesdays and sports classes are also charged £60 per term on Thursdays.

All children will need a named smock (obtainable from Peter Jones).

All fees must be paid in advance. No reductions can be made for children absent during school hours.

Notice of withdrawal of a child must be given in writing with a minimum of a term's notice. For late notices, a charge of a term's fee is made.

Parents when signing the registration form accept the terms and conditions.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.