

Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori was a truly remarkable woman. Born in 1870, she was the first woman to be granted a medical degree from an Italian University

Later, she became interested in children who were thought of as "abnormal". Eventually, she became a director of a school for such children and she was to achieve remarkable results.

Her attention then turned to "normal" children, whom she felt must have vast potentialities that went unrecognised by the education system.

Her life work began with a group of slum children, in 1907, when she opened her famous "Casa dei Bambini" or "Children's House".

Through her observations and work with these children, she discovered their remarkable, almost effortless ability, to learn. Children teach themselves. This simple but profound truth formed the cornerstone of her life-long pursuit of education reform.

Over the next forty years of constant observation and experimentation, Maria Montessori developed an approach to education. This is based on "following the child", recognising the needs and characteristics of children of each age group and reconstructing the corresponding environment that best meets those needs. Her insights and approach to child development have been enormously influential and have benefited the lives of children all over the world.

The Beehive Montessori School Personnel

The Beehive Montessori School was established in April 1990 by Lyndsey Nelson. She trained with the Maria Montessori Training Organisation (now known as the Maria Montessori Institute) in Hampstead, London. It is fully recognised by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), the world-wide co-ordinating body originally established by Dr. Montessori.

After completing her training and receiving her AMI Diploma, Lyndsey spent three years teaching in a well-established Montessori school in West London, where she was a Directress in a class of 35 children. During that time, she also tutored several children with reading difficulties.

Since then, she has had many years' experience running the school and has an extreme passion for, and belief in, the Montessori approach, as she has had the joy of observing child after child blossom with its help.

For this reason, the Beehive strives to create a genuine Montessori environment and approach at all times, and not just make use of the name.

The Montessori Classroom

When your child enters The Beehive Montessori School, he or she will be given every opportunity to grow and develop his/her personality to the full and will be nurtured, valued and respected.

The Montessori approach is based on a deep understanding of the way in which children learn. Your child is eager to do as much as possible for him/herself and, at The Beehive, we aim not to control but to inspire and build upon your child's natural desire to learn.

'Tell me and I forget.

Teach me and I remember.

Involve me and I learn'

Benjamin Franklin

Once your child is involved and given the freedom to make choices, and is able to follow them without interruptions, he/she will feel pleasure and joy in his/her own achievements and self-confidence will follow. He/she will have the Directress close at hand and she will observe and gently guide and assist him/her when needed.

The Montessori classroom is a prepared environment and is based on Maria Montessori's original 'Casa dei Bambini' (Children's House).

The materials found here are beautiful pieces of equipment which each have a specific purpose and are always accessible to every child. They are, however, just one aspect of the total philosophy.

Every morning, before your child starts his/her day, the Directress will have taken great care in ensuring that all the equipment is complete and that the environment is aesthetically pleasing, thus encouraging your child to explore and investigate. Your child will also be encouraged to take a role in caring for his/her environment.

Practical Life

On first entering The Beehive, your child will be introduced to our Practical Life activities in order to help to develop his/her co-ordination, concentration, social awareness, self-respect and independence. Using the child's natural desire for purposeful movement, he/she has the opportunity to manage his/her own clothing (using our dressing frames), wash dishes, polish shoes, pour their own drinks, lay the table, etc.

Sensorial

He/she will have the chance to explore our sensorial activities. These isolate concepts such as size, length, colour, weight, sound, touch, etc. When these concepts are understood, he/she will progress to activities that encourage greater refinement of the senses and be given the language to express the concepts that he/she has now understood.

Language and Literacy

He/she will be given limitless opportunities to develop language skills, such as speaking, listening, writing, reading, grammar, all greatly assisted by the unique Montessori Language approach.

Mathematics

He/she will discover the Montessori mathematical activities which will give him/her a concrete understanding of skills such as counting, sorting, addition, subtraction, the decimal system, fractions and geometry (Maths is fun!!).

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We aim to give your child the 'keys' to the world that will further awaken his/her natural curiosity to explore the world around him/her. An example is the introduction of Geography. This will be explored, starting with the basic concepts of land and water, using models, followed by the introduction of globes and then puzzle maps showing continents and countries, which will further encourage exploration of the people, animals, plants, flags, etc, of each. Other subjects, covered in similar ways, will include zoology, botany, science, music and art.

Creative Development

Cookery, craft, drama, dance, playtime and weekly walks also play an important role in your child's time at The Beehive.

Inspections

The Beehive Montessori School is inspected by Ofsted and links the Montessori activities to the Early Learning Goals. Past inspectors have been extremely impressed with the confidence, independence and calmness shown by the children, as they go about their activities, and the joy on the children's faces as they make their own special discoveries.

Location

The Beehive Montessori School is housed in St. Michael's Church Hall, Sycamore Road, Amersham.

School sessions

The school year is divided into three terms, each term having a one-week mid-term break, except the Autumn term which has a two-week mid-term break as this has been found to be more beneficial for the children in what is a very busy term for them.

Morning Session: Five mornings a week: 9.15 am - 12.15 pm

Full Day: Two days a week: 9.15 am - 2.45 pm

School Fees

All fees are payable termly in advance, on or before the first day of each term. Fees are per session and as terms vary in length **we ask you to contact us for current fee tables.**

Funding is available for all 3 and 4 year olds . Unfortunately, the hourly rate paid by the Local Authority falls short of the true cost of providing a place and is not sufficient for us to run a high quality and sustainable educational setting. In order to safeguard the future of us remaining in the scheme and offering significantly reduced fees, we need to request voluntary contributions.

There is a non-refundable registration fee of £50, which is subsequently deducted from the first term's fees.

Please contact:

Lyndsey Nelson
57, Layters Close
Chalfont St. Peter
Bucks SL9 9HS

Tel: 01753 891 613

to arrange an appointment to view the school.

General Information

Clothing

Each child needs to have a change of clothes (relevant to the season) in case of an accident or if the child gets wet through using activities in the classroom.

Please send your child in clothes which are practical and which he/she will be able to manage on his/her own.

Your child will also need a pair of Wellington boots, clearly marked with his/her name.

Toys

There will be a basket by the children's coat rack in which to put any toys which your child may bring to school. We would suggest that it is wise to discourage your child from bringing toys to school, as we cannot be responsible for any losses.

"Things in pockets"

There are a number of small items in our classroom which often go missing, e.g. pink tower cubes, red, green and golden beads and various other small objects. If you find unfamiliar objects, please check with us before throwing them out as they may be vital parts of our classroom material.

Birthdays

When it is your child's birthday, we will have a birthday group. If your child wishes, he/she may bring something small for the children to share.

Snack

We would ask that each child brings a piece of fruit, which will be shared during the morning. Milk will be provided.

Your Child's First Day

On your child's first day, it is extremely important that his/her experience is positive and that he/she feels secure and happy in his/her new surroundings. For the younger pupils, this may be the first time that they have been outside the home environment unaccompanied, therefore the first day will be shorter than a normal session.

When he/she arrives, he/she will be greeted by a directress, who will work with him/her, on a one-to-one basis, until he/she becomes fully settled into the classroom environment.

From then on, both the time spent in school, and the period of absence of the parent, is increased until the child attends the full session. On average, this takes about a week although, in some cases, it may take a little longer.

Beehive Montessori School – Application for Registration

Full Name of Pupil:.....

(underline name known by)

Date of Birth:.....

Name of Parent/Guardian:.....

Home Address.....

Telephone Number.....Mobile:.....

Business Address:.....

Business Telephone Number:.....

Family Doctor:.....

Doctor's Telephone Number:.....

For Term Commencing.....Term...20.....

I agree to give written notice of withdrawal of my child from the school not later than the first day of the child's last term of attendance, otherwise I understand that I shall be liable to pay a further FULL term's fees. Absence for illness or holidays does not justify a refund.

I enclose £50 registration fee (non-refundable)

Signature of Parent/Guardian:.....

Date:.....