



PROSPECTUS



OPEN DAILY, MONDAY TO FRIDAY*

* Settings are open all-year round, closing only for one week during the Christmas/New Year period.





DEAR PARENTS/CARERS,

Jelly Beans first opened its doors in 2004 when I started the nursery in my home in Rochford.

There were just three children in those very early days, one of whom was my youngest daughter, since then the nursery has moved twice due to the high demand for more places and opened up two nurseries on the sites of Hockley Primary School and Plumberow Primary Academy.

The Montessori method provides children with a real purpose in their learning, supported by Montessori teachers who genuinely love, value, and respect all that children do and say. All three of my daughters have benefitted enormously from a Montessori start in their education and I am proud that they have become confident, articulate, young women who embrace life to the full. Each of them confidently follows her own path, much of which has been brought about by the wonderful start which Montessori was able to offer them in those all-important early days.

In the hustle and bustle of our busy lives Jelly Beans provides your child with the opportunity to stop, absorb the world around them, appreciate it and learn from it. A Montessori nursery school offers your child opportunities to explore the academic side of learning yet also to realise and experience the beauty of the world in which we live, in a happy and playful atmosphere.



We know how difficult it is to find the right nursery where both you and your little one will feel content and confident. We understand how important it is for you both to begin this journey as positively as possible. We invite you to take time to read the information overleaf, visit our setting as many times as you wish, and ask all the staff as many questions as you need to, so that when the big day arrives to start nursery, you are both as prepared as best you can be.

I hope you enjoy the read ahead and if you have not already booked a visit to the nursery please do so on 01702 200209, a warm welcome awaits you.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Drummond

JELLY BEANS MONTESSORI NURSERIES MISSION STATEMENT

It is our aim to provide high quality early years education and care in a safe and warm environment following the philosophy and method of Maria Montessori. We nurture the individual curiosity of every child through the availability of an extensive curriculum and the support and guidance from highly qualified staff. Staff

promote respect for each other and our nursery recognising the significant part they have to play as role models for polite and well-mannered behaviour. Ultimately children are encouraged to have fun and flourish, becoming confident and accomplished, with a thirst to learn.



THE MONTESSORI METHOD



Freedom

In order for a child to develop to their full potential, they depend on two things: their relationship with the environment and their freedom. This means that in a Montessori classroom the children are free to move wherever they want, to any part of the classrooms, in or out and they can choose to play with whatever they wish. They are also free to repeat any activity as many times as they wish and for as long as they want.

“The material is set out for him; he only has to stretch out his hand to take it. He can carry the chosen object wherever he chooses, to a table, to a place near the window, to a dark corner or to a pretty little carpet spread out on the floor, and he can use the object over and over again as often as he feels like it.”

(Montessori, 1912)

Independence

At Jelly Beans, we live by the saying “help me to help myself.” Children are encouraged to help with snack, pour their own drinks, put on their own shoes and coats and go to the toilet independently. All of this is encouraged and supported by our responsive, compassionate, and patient staff. In our classrooms children as young as two pour their milk, cut up their apple and drink from a glass. The children see the classroom as their space and their responsibility which fosters respect for their environment and confidence in their own abilities.

The Work Cycle

The work cycle or cycle of activity is the process a child will go through, using the Montessori materials. The child will choose their activity from the shelf and bring it to a table or floor space by themselves. They will sit and watch a teacher present the activity and then take a turn or do it entirely by themselves. Once they have finished, they return the activity back to the shelf. This process gives our children the responsibility for their own learning. From choosing the activity, the length of time they spend with it and how they choose to complete it, they are the ones in control, ultimately leading to motivated and confident learners.

THE FIVE AREAS OF LEARNING

Practical Life

This area offers exercises which link the home and the nursery; children will see the activities available in this section of the classroom as the tasks usually carried out at home by parents/carers. Here they are given the opportunity to try them out for themselves, such as polishing, doing up buttons, packing a suitcase, sorting and laying the table, using scissors, plus many, many more. These important activities lay down the foundations for concentration and independence.



Sensorial

As a child's first learning is through the senses, we use a range of well thought out exercises to help children sort, match, compare and grade objects by shape, size, touch, taste, and sound. These early sensorial impressions boost children's powers of observation and discrimination, broaden their vocabulary, and contribute to their later understanding of formal educational concepts.



Language

Story time and singing is carried out at each session and provides an important source for your child's development and expansion of language. In addition to this Montessori Schools have their own extensive and effective reading and writing system which your child will be introduced to when they are ready.



Mathematics

From those important early counting songs where your child is acquiring number skills, we build on these and introduce your child to the diverse and fascinating Montessori materials which offer a structured series of activities.



Cultural/Factual

This area encompasses all things to do with the world and communities. There are concrete examples of land formations, life cycles, plants, animals and cultures for the child to explore and discuss with their friends and teachers leading to well-informed thinkers with a curiosity for the world around them.



HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION AND CARE

OFSTED

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Both our Day Nursery and Open Air settings have recently been OFSTED inspected and have achieved good. Our Plumberow setting will be inspected soon and currently also holds good. We strive for excellence in all of our settings, working towards achieving outstanding at all three. At Jelly Beans we are committed to consistently providing high quality education and care.

Montessori Accreditation

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At Jelly Beans we pride ourselves on engaging closely with Montessori accreditation processes. It is our highest priority for all of our settings to meet the standards and guidelines set by Maria Montessori. This not only ensures high quality care and teaching, but creates continuity across our settings. Accreditation boards. They assess the way in which teachers behave, teach and talk to the children. They assess the environment to ensure that we have the appropriate Montessori Materials and activities available. They also assess how we plan, observe and record children's progress.

High Quality Teaching

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At Jelly Beans, high quality teaching is at the forefront of our ethos. The teacher is one of the most important resources in a Montessori classroom and we have high expectations for our staff. Every member of staff is qualified or working towards a qualification. We have

Montessori trained staff supporting all staff to work in the highly motivated, respectful and knowledgeable way that Montessori teachers are known for. We have a mentor programme for new members of staff in which they are trained in the Montessori method. Our key worker system ensures each child's individual needs are cared for and learning is tailored to suit all interests and strengths. Our detailed use of observation and assessment allows staff to gain a true understanding of the unique child along with open and professional relationships with parents. As a result, children at our settings make excellent progress against the Early Years Foundation Stage (the early years national curriculum) and Montessori materials.

Meals at Jelly Beans

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We offer three meals a day at Jelly Beans, which are cooked offsite and delivered to each settings. Our menus are designed by a nutritionist specifically to fulfil guidelines for healthy eating at 0-5 years old. The children eat real food, prepared from scratch and cooked on the day of delivery. Our meals contain minimal amounts of salt and sugar, as well as offering a variety of food groups and the nutrients children need for healthy growth and development

All dietary needs, including allergies, intolerance's and cultural requirements are carefully and safely catered for. Children have a hot meal at lunch and dinner time, as well as healthy, nutritious and varied snacks and breakfasts.

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Jelly Beans Nursery

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Jelly Beans Day Nursery

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Jelly Beans Open Air Day Nursery

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