

# SARAH'S MONTESSORI PROSPECTUS



**OPEN DAILY, MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

Settings are open all-year round





# DEAR PARENTS/CARERS,

My first Montessori nursery, Jelly Beans, 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 to Hockley and, due to high demand for more places, opened up two nurseries on the sites of Hockley Primary School and Plumberow Primary Academy.

Now, I am SO excited to introduce Sarah's Montessori Nursery! The latest addition to my Montessori Family! A stone's throw from Chalkwell park, the local library and Chawkwell Beach, and with easy distance from the train line to London, this setting is ideal for working parents who want their children to experience the benefits of their local community, in a beautiful period property. The building's history as Alleyn Court Preparatory school sets it up as the perfect environment for learning with several stunning classrooms, a large, grassy and nature-oriented garden, with views out to the estuary from our top floors!

Naturally, the Montessori Method is at the heart of my provision. 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.

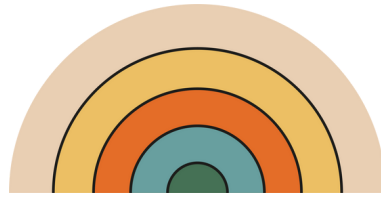


In the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, Sarah's Montessori will provide your child with the opportunity to stop, absorb the world around them, appreciate it and learn from it. A Montessori nursery school offers your child opportunities to explore the academic side of learning yet also to realise 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. We will be inviting all parents on our list to visit as soon as we possibly can!

Yours sincerely,  
Sarah Drummond



# SARAH'S MONTESSORI

**All of our settings are governed by the overarching principles of the Montessori Method as well as our own specific Sarah's and Jelly Beans ethos.**

Sarah's Montessori is set to open its doors this April 2024! We're so excited to step into a new community, and bring our passion for the Montessori method to the families of Westcliff. We are ideally situated, in the centre of Westcliff-on-Sea. Close to London Road, the C2C line, local Primary Schools and other amenities, allowing for effortless and peaceful morning and evening routines as you drop off and pick up. The properties proximity to Chalkwell Beach, Chalkwell Park, the local Library and the Theatre is another benefit. Aside from everything that a Montessori nursery has to offer your child, this setting will have a focus on being part of the local culture, ensuring your children grow up rooted in their sense of self, family, and community.



Two cosy baby rooms are being designed and built over the next few months with the Montessori concept of the 'Nido' at it's heart. The word 'Nido' is derived from the Italian word meaning 'nest' and we feel it conveys the spirit of the infant environment. While living in India during the Second World War, Montessori observed relationships between large, diverse families and their little ones and was inspired by the nurture and care that supported both physical and mental development. She wanted to share this experience with families worldwide, and extend her provision to the youngest children. At the same time she wanted to ensure parents could continue to work, comforted and confident in the knowledge that their little ones were in a safe, clean environment, cared for by knowledgeable and passionate Montessori assistants to infancy.



Importantly, they were being provided with more than just childcare. Their children's development as human beings was at the forefront of the provision. Following on from this revolutionary work over 70 years ago, our classrooms will be comforting, warm and inviting with care being taken to provide nurturing, calm stimulation to enhance the development of the young child. Our baby rooms will back onto a purpose-built sleep room, allowing for calm and restful sleep, and ensuring that your child's home routine won't be affected when starting nursery. We are lucky enough to have a beautiful outside space, which we intend to furnish with climbing frames, Wendy houses, and areas for natural exploration, looking for bugs, growing plants and counting conkers! The garden is surrounded on all sides by high fencing, ensuring safety and security for all.



As your child learns, grows and moves through to our toddler and preschool rooms, we will introduce a wealth of joyful and engaging learning experiences centred around the Montessori Materials. Read on for a closer look at our Montessori provision.



# SARAH'S MONTESSORI 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 Sarah's, 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

## Freedom

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

We are in the final stages of registering with Ofsted. Our sister settings in Hockley have all achieved 'good' at their inspections. We strive for excellence, aiming for 'outstanding' at all four settings. At Sarah's we are committed to consistently providing high quality education and care.

## High Quality Teaching

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 Montessori mentors to support new members of staff. 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.

## Montessori Accreditation

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 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. We are currently working with Collaborative Montessori to assess and accredit all four of our settings.

## Meals at Sarah's

We offer three meals a day at Sarah's which are cooked offsite and delivered to each setting. 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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