



PROSPECTUS

Harlequin Montessori Nursery

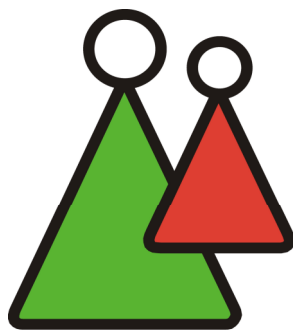
School Road

Billericay

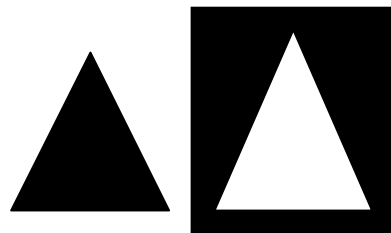
Essex CM12 9LH

01277 633223

Accredited by



MEAB Accredited
MONTESSORI



MONTESSORI

EDUCATION (U.K.) LTD

PRINCIPAL A. ARBER

Montessori International Diploma of Education

Advanced Montessori Diploma

Nursery Premises

Harlequin Montessori Nursery is housed in its own purpose built building.

The nursery has three bright rooms which open into each other ensuring complete freedom of choice for the children. A large kitchen is divided into two areas one for paint and craft preparation and one for the preparation and storage of snacks and drinks.

The separate nursery office houses all the confidential documents and records; it is also a quiet space for parents to have discussions with a member of staff if requested.

With two safe outside play areas the nursery can offer a variety of outdoor activities including planting, digging, hopscotch, basketball, a climbing frame, sit 'n' ride toys, balls, beanbags, hoops and much more. The free flow work cycle ensures children use the outside area as much as possible.

Important points of the nursery

- ❖ Harlequin Montessori Nursery was established in 1992
- ❖ Fully Accredited by 'Montessori Education (UK) Ltd and MEAB
- ❖ Good Ofsted reports
- ❖ Government funding available for 3 & 4 year olds
- ❖ Morning and afternoon sessions plus full days available for children 2 – 5 years
- ❖ Term time only
- ❖ Recognised placement nursery for Montessori student teachers
- ❖ Visitors always welcome
- ❖ Highly qualified and dedicated staff
- ❖ Principal / owner holds full Montessori International Diploma, Advanced Montessori Diploma and is a Teaching Practice Tutor.
- ❖ Harlequin also has an accredited sister nursery in Stock Village.

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F.A.Q'S

Q., What is a Montessori Nursery?

A., Maria Montessori was a scientist and an educationalist who devised her own 'Child Centred' philosophy after intensive research. Her phrase 'Follow the child' is still today the basis of a Montessori School. She discovered that all children learn when they have the freedom to do so and that the thoughtfully prepared environment is especially important to that freedom.

Harlequin is an excellent Accredited Montessori Nursery, please come and visit us and see for yourself.....you have nothing to lose , and your child would have everything to gain.

Q., Is there special training to be a Montessori teacher / Directress?

A., Yes, there are several colleges and various courses all over the world that offer Montessori Teacher training. To gain the full International Diploma a student must complete an intensive course of study, pass examinations in both theory and practice and complete a minimum of 420 hours teaching practice.

It is very important when visiting any nursery that claims to be Montessori that you ask about staff qualifications and training. Just having the materials and a vague idea of how they should be used is sadly common.

Q., Is it true that the Montessori Method is very strict and structured?

A., Unfortunately this is a common misconception, probably because a true Montessori nursery is calm yet busy and the children achieve so much. This would seem to some that the children are 'hot housed' and pressured into all kinds of academic work....they are not. A Montessori nursery has a structured environment NOT a structured timetable.

The children are given the freedom to explore and investigate their nursery at their own pace with limited adult intrusion.

Dr Maria Montessori

MARIA MONTESSORI was born in Italy in 1870. She grew into an exceptional student who despite the hostility of her fellow male students went on to become Italy's first woman doctor.

After extensive experience in private practice, hospital work and research she became especially interested in education while working with a group of special needs children. Although these children were kept in good health and well cared for, very little was being done about their education. Realising this downfall in provision she began to devise educational methods and apparatus that would stimulate their interest and help them to develop understanding through self discovery.

Her approach was so successful it was applauded by educators, officials and heads of government. She decided to move on and put her methods into practice with more able children. Here too, the results proved to be magnificent. Her schools named 'Casa dei Bambini' (Children's house) became world famous. She was invited to lecture throughout the world and went on to write a series of articles and books about her discoveries.

She died in Holland in 1952 at the age of 82. Maria Montessori left the children of the world a method of education which was not just a philosophy but a concrete and practical child centred approach to learning.

The curriculum

Harlequin nursery ensures that the curriculum on offer to the children links the EYFS six areas of learning into the Montessori learning environment i.e., the Montessori curriculum.

The EYFS six areas of learning are:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication, language and literacy
- Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development

The Montessori curriculum areas are:

- Practical Life
- Sensorial
- Cultural
- Maths
- Language
- Creativity

Practical Life

Promoting skills in co-ordination, concentration, independence and confidence.

Sensorial

Materials to stimulate learning through the senses. Improving fine motor skills. This area is a natural and perfect preparation for working with the maths and language activities.

Mathematics

An early introduction to number concepts and skills

Language

A phonic first method of reading and writing

Cultural

A vast area that encourages awareness of the world around us, including music, history, geography, zoology, nature, and science

Creativity

A stimulating assortment of materials for all forms of art and craft, drama and dance.

The Harlequin Montessori Timetable has been carefully planned to ensure the session/day incorporates two full Montessori work cycles where the children have the freedom to play inside and outside.

It also includes varied and extensive topic work and a specialised afternoon club session for the children attending a full day.

CLUBS

Monday

Music & Movement

Tuesday

Cultural

Wednesday

Art

Thursday

Science

Friday

Gardening

Our 'Mini Montessorians', the under 3's have their own specially planned session each afternoon to gently ease them into the nursery routine.

All the plans for the nursery's additional curriculum are displayed for all parents to read which include suggestions for activities for things to do at home. This also detailed on our web site.

*Clubs are subject to change

HARLEQUIN MONTESSORI NURSERY

DAILY TIMETABLE

TIME	MORNING SESSION	MORNING SESSION WITH LUNCH	FULL DAY	AFTERNOON SESSION
8.30am	Early birds breakfast club	Early birds breakfast club	Early birds breakfast club	
9.00am	Welcome all children (Register)	Welcome all children (Register)	Welcome all children (Register)	
9.00am-12.15pm	Montessori free flow work cycle Incl:snack bar	Montessori free flow work cycle Incl:snack bar	Montessori free flow work cycle Incl:snack bar	
12.15pm-12.30pm	Home time story/songs	Montessori free flow work cycle	Montessori free flow work cycle	
12.30pm-12.40pm		Wash hands prepare lunch tables	Wash hands prepare lunch tables	
12.40pm-1.05pm		Lunch	Lunch	
1.05pm-1.15pm		Home time story/songs	Story time	
1.15pm			Montessori free flow work cycle	Welcome Mini Monty's (Register)
1.15pm-3.00pm			Montessori free flow work cycle Incl:snack bar	Mini Monty's work cycle Incl:snack bar
3.00pm-3.45pm			Club time	Mini Monty's small group time
3.45pm-4.15pm			Group tea time	Group tea time
4.15pm-4.30pm			Home time story/songs	Home time story/songs

HARLEQUIN MONTESSORI NURSERY

MISSION STATEMENT

At Harlequin Montessori Nursery we guarantee to consistently deliver the very highest standards of care and education.

We understand and believe that all children are individuals who have their own distinctive physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Harlequin adheres completely to the Montessori philosophy that every child should be valued and treated with respect, and that each child is a whole and unique person.

All staff promote equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice. We ensure each child is included and never disadvantaged due to their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, gender, ability or family background.

We embrace and respect all religions, cultures and all types of family unit.

Our Montessori Nursery environment reflects this policy.

HARLEQUIN MONTESSORI NURSERY

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

AIMS

- To provide every child with a safe, secure and stimulating environment.
- To treat each child as a unique individual.
- To encourage self discipline and independence.
- To allow children to work at their own pace.
- To lead by example.
- To be open and welcoming to all families.
- To work in partnership with parents, sharing all information.
- To effectively work with all other professional bodies.
- To consistently strive to offer the very best Montessori practice in care and education.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure children feel protected, fulfilled and happy whilst in our care.
- To make each child feel special and important.
- To support children to be spontaneous with self control and freedom.
- To never pressure children into using materials or taking part in activities.
- To guarantee all staff are good role models.
- To acknowledge and understand that families are the first educators of their children.
- To ensure parents are valued and involved in their child's development.
- To share knowledge and expertise with other relevant organisations.
- To continually evaluate our nursery provision to ensure we are offering the best in Montessori practice.

REGULATIONS POLICY

1. It will not be possible to accept a child into the nursery until they are two years of age and have completed our transition course (Harlequin Little Explorers).
2. Places are offered on a first come first served basis.
3. Names are placed on the waiting list upon receipt of the registration fee and the completed registration form. The registration fee can only be refunded if the nursery is unable to offer your child a place.
4. Invoices are issued in advance before the start of term. The fees must be paid in full one term in advance. Late payment of fees or returned cheques will incur an administration charge.
5. Half a terms notice in advance and in writing please if a child is to be withdrawn from the nursery.
6. When necessary the nursery has the right to ask for the removal of a child.
7. Punctuality is vital for your child's sake and the effective running of the nursery. Children need to arrive prompt for the start of their session and picked up on time. A charge of £10 per ½ hour will be required for over time.
8. It is important that parents/guardians understand that refunds against fees cannot be made due to absenteeism. The nursery's costs and expenses do not diminish because a child is absent. No refund will be made for closure due to extreme circumstances.
9. If your child appears unwell in any way, however minor, has a temperature or has been sick during the last 48hrs please do not send them to nursery in the interests of the other child.
10. At Harlequin children are required to wear uniform which is available to purchase from the nursery.