

## Andrea's Montessori



### Proprietor /Manager / Registered Childminder: Mrs. Andrea Dalling

- 20 years experience working with children aged 6mths-7years.
- **International Diploma in Montessori Pedagogy (London, MCI, 2000)**
- Assessor for the Montessori Evaluation and Accreditation Board (MEAB) since 2008.
- **Certificates** : CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Childminding Practice, First Aid, Child Protection, Risk Assessment Principles and Practice, Disability Awareness and Baby signing, Understanding school age behaviour, Working with parents, Business Success for Childcare, Financial record keeping, Managing meetings, Supervision and Appraisal, Staffing and Recruitment, Cash flow and Financial Management, Makaton basic.
- **MEAB Accreditation (March 2011)**, which demonstrates the high quality of childcare & Montessori education provided to the children.
- Member of Montessori Schools Association (MSA).
- Accredited Network Childminder offering the Free Nursery Education for 3 & 4 year-olds since January 2006.
- Completing BA (Hons) degree in Early Childhood Studies (Metropolitan University) and long term plan to gain the Early Years Professional Status (EYPS).
- Currently registered for eight under 5's and working with a Co-Childminder and assistant.

### At Andrea's Montessori:

- **The children enjoy wonderful facilities and opportunities.**
- **Everything is carefully planned to meet the specific needs of a young and exciting age group.**
- **The children are guided according to the principles of the Montessori philosophy.**

### **Our aim is:**

- To offer flexible, high quality care and education for children aged 0 – 4 years based on the Montessori philosophy and the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS).
- To support families and their child's individual needs within the five areas of the 'Every Child Matters Framework' in a happy, relaxed, loving and caring home from home environment.
- To encourage children to develop their confidence and independence at their own pace, and to give them the best start in their early learning experiences

### **Our Premises:**

Downstairs area: The ground floor consists of two wonderfully large and airy main rooms divided into curriculum areas.



Upstairs area: The upstairs area is only used for resting, where sleeping cots are provided in each room.

Garden: The children enjoy the use of a large garden with all outdoor facilities (slides, see-saw, tricycle, sandpit, water play and trampoline).



- The equipment has been carefully chosen with regard to its educational and play value, safety and durability. The toys cater for all age groups.

- Each of the activities provide learning experiences for children and help them develop physical, intellectual, language, emotional and social skills through free choice of activities, music, art, cookery and outdoor play.
- We plan weekly outings to our local parks, playgrounds, playgroups, Children's Centres, Library and Museums.

Each child's individual needs and development are discussed with parents at individual parent's meetings.

### **Meals:**

The children have home cooked meals (lunch and dinner), as well as healthy snacks during morning and afternoon sessions.

We also cater for special dietary needs.

### **Who Was Maria Montessori?**

Maria Montessori was born in 1870 in Chiaraville, Italy. In 1896 she became the first woman in Italy to graduate as a doctor of medicine. She only became interested in education when she worked as a doctor with children, who would nowadays be recognized as having 'special needs.' It occurred to her that these children were trying to learn about their world through their hands. This idea was to become a major theme in her method. She began to work with such children, stimulating their previously neglected minds, and soon they started to respond. Maria Montessori wanted to learn more about children with 'special needs' so she studied the work of two French doctors, Jean Itard and Seguin, who were pioneers in this field. Based on their ideas of 'education of the senses' and 'freedom of movement' she created a system of her own.

She was so successful that the children managed to pass examinations alongside normal children at a public school.

Maria Montessori was given an ideal opportunity to apply her method to normal children in 1905 when she was asked to organize a school for sixty, 3 to 7 year-olds in a slum housing clearance project in San Lorenzo. She called it 'Casa dei Bambini' (The Children's House). The children began to choose the equipment that they wanted to work with freely. When they had finished the 'cycle of activity' they seemed satisfied and happy. They possessed a deep sense of personal dignity and concern for each other. They greeted people in the classroom warmly and respectfully but it was the concentrated attention, self-discipline and spontaneity in the peaceful atmosphere that so impressed the visitors. Word of Maria Montessori's work spread, and more 'Children's Houses' opened. She spent the rest of her life travelling the world giving lectures, training teachers and writing up her works. She died in 1952 in Holland at the age of 82.

Maria Montessori left behind a wonderful legacy, a philosophy of life, and a unique method of education which gives children the best possible start in life.

## **The Montessori Method**

Maria Montessori believed the most important period in a child's life is from birth to six years of age. She believed it is during this time that the child possesses an 'absorbent mind'. This enables the child to learn effortlessly as he/she interacts with his/her environment. A child passes through 'sensitive periods'. These are periods when he/she is ready to learn certain concepts, such as language and does so more easily than at any other time. The child loves to learn, and is laying the foundations for life.

## **The Favourable Environment**

Montessori called her classroom setting 'The Favourable Environment', where everything is child sized and materials are laid out in an orderly fashion. Everything has its own place, and is within easy reach. This promotes independence and allows freedom of choice. The environment is simple yet pleasing. It is not over stimulating or overcrowded. There is an emphasis on bringing about awareness of the real world around the child. He/she is encouraged to learn and understand about nature. Children are vertically grouped.

## **The 'Directress'**

Montessori preferred this term as she differs from a traditional teacher in the sense that, she is the 'dynamic link' between the child and his environment, from which he/she learns, rather than teacher merely imparting knowledge. The Directress observes the child and knows the right time to present the various materials and exercises to him/her. Records are kept for every child. Most of the teaching is done on a one to one basis with each child setting the pace.

## **How the child learns**

This purposeful routine creates self-discipline. Most of the exercises have a 'control of error '(this means they are self-correcting). Mistakes are made apparent to the child without needing to ask the directress. This promotes auto-education, the child teaches himself/herself. As the child works there are no rewards or punishments and the environment is non-competitive. The child is treated as an individual and respected, and is allowed to develop at his/her own pace, never compared to others or 'pushed'. As a result the child grows confident in his own abilities and this, in turn, increases his/her self-esteem.

## The Montessori Materials

The Montessori materials cover development activities designed to meet the needs of the child in five curriculum areas

- Practical Life Skills



These activities develop concentration and co-ordination of movement. They include exercises such as pouring, spooning, threading, sorting, cutting, dressing frames, (buttons, buckles, hooks & eyes, bows), opening and closing (bottles, padlocks, boxes).

- Sensorial Apparatus

These, as the name suggests, are activities and materials to develop the senses. Some of them are: The Pink Tower; Cylinder Blocks; Colour Tablets; Sound Boxes; Smell Jars; Touch Fabrics and Geometric Cabinet. The sensorial materials provide concrete experiences embodying abstract concepts.



- Mathematics

Montessori carefully designed the material to give the child a sound understanding of numbers and their relationship. An idea is always introduced in a simple and sensorial way so the child can see, hold and feel a number or a concept. Gradually the child is led to a more abstract understanding. The mathematic materials include number rods, sandpaper numbers, etc.



- Language

Language materials take the child step by step through all the stages of language development; including oral expression, writing and reading. Sandpaper letters are used to teach the phonetic sounds of the alphabet to the child. When the child knows all the sounds, a phonetic reading scheme is used, this is graded in difficulty.



- Cultural Subjects

Cultural Materials introduce the child to geography (using globes, puzzle maps, etc.), nature studies (life-cycle games, matching cards), art and music.



### **EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)**

The EYFS has been introduced by the government in all childcare settings (including home-based education and childminding) since September 2008.

The EYFS focuses on the 'Unique child', 'Positive Relationships', 'Enabling Environments', 'Learning and Development' from 0 to 5 years of age.

The Montessori philosophy and materials are implemented within all areas of learning.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development

### **Fee and Registration:**

**£80.00 deposit** is charged on the day of registration, which is only refundable if 4 week- notice of termination of contract is given by parents!

- Contract, policies and procedures are provided by the Proprietor, and contract is reviewed every six months by both parties.
- Fees are paid a month in advance.

## **Policies and Procedures:**

- Inclusion and Equal Opportunities Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Child Protection
- Emergency and Medical Procedure
- Confidentiality
- Complaint Procedure
- Risk Assessment

## **Settling- in**

To help your child settle in, we would recommend that you bring him/her along for a couple of preliminary visits. Settling –in is over the period of two weeks when we gently settle the child in by building up the child’s contracted days and hours.

## **Clothing/Toiletries**

Spare clothing and toiletries such as nappies, nappy bags and baby wipes need to be provided by parents.

## **Daily Routine:**

8.00am- 8.15am Breakfast

9.00am – 12.30pm ‘Work cycle’ – Free- flow indoor and outdoor activities including snack (fruit)

12.30pm - Lunch

1.15pm- 1.45pm Story time

1.45pm – 3.00pm Resting or quiet play time

3.00pm – 5.00pm- ‘Work cycle’ – Free- flow indoor and outdoor activities

5.15pm – Dinner

6.00pm- Departure

\***‘Work –cycle’** = The work cycle is a three hour period during which children select activities spontaneously. It consists of many ‘cycle of activities’ which the children freely choose both indoors and outdoors on their own , with their peers or with some guidance of the teacher.

\* **‘Cycle of activity’** = The child chooses the activity freely, completes it then places it back on the shelf after completion.

\*Planned activities cover all areas of development (Cognitive, Physical, Language, Social and Emotional), which help the child to develop his/her confidence, independence, self-esteem, concentration, eye-hand coordination, visual, listening, mathematic skills, creative skills and knowledge and understanding of the world.

Outings at Andrea's Montessori two days per a week:

- Mondays : Museums or Local Park, playground
- Thursdays: Library / Story time or local park/ playground
- Special outings every three months (Polka Theatre, Local Fire station, Transport Museum, Wetland Centre, etc.)

If you would like to make an appointment to visit our spacious, relaxed, happy and carrying childcare setting, please do not hesitate to call on **0208 133 4932** or e-mail to [andrea@andreamontessori.co.uk](mailto:andrea@andreamontessori.co.uk).