



## **WHAT LITTLE STARS MONTESSORI SCHOOL OFFERS:**

Little Stars Montessori is a small private Pre-school following the Montessori method of teaching. We offer a small class and individual attention, which ensures that your child feels at home. Children in our school have the freedom to explore their environment and to pick and choose the things they want to play with and learn from which develops their independence.

We believe that if parents and teachers work together in the education of their children the optimum result will be achieved, we therefore encourage parent participation.

Our Montessori class utilizes your child's unique sensitivities offering exercises in language development, sensor motor development, reading, mathematics, physical and natural sciences, geography and cultural studies, music, art, drama and body movement. The activities in Practical Life as well as other materials are designed to help the child to progress at his/her own rate. The child is able to direct themselves and set up their own program of learning in a trusting atmosphere with the close guidance of the teachers.

### **THE MONTESSORI METHOD**

The Montessori method was developed in the early part of the 20th century by Italian physician and educator, Maria Montessori. From observations made while working with young children, she evolved a new method that revolutionized teaching concepts and brought to the classroom a sense of joy and accomplishment, she also believed that children possess a remarkable sensitivity and capacity for absorbing and learning from their environment which strongly influenced her educational theories. The aim is to enable the child to function in their environment independently. The underlying principle is one of freedom within established limits which permits the child to gain self-esteem and self-reliance.

The Montessori approach is essentially practical, flexible and specifically suited to a child's environment and needs within his/her own community.

The aim is to develop in each child a natural love of learning and the practical skills necessary for future competence in life. The approach builds confidence and self-respect, responsibility and care for others and the environment.

### **VIEW OF THE CHILD:**

Children possess unique sensitivity and mental capabilities for absorbing and assimilating information from their environment, different by nature from those of adults. To help children reach their potential, the classroom environment stimulates and encourages the development of self-esteem, independence, self-motivation, and respect for oneself and others, along with a strong sense of community. Understanding that children learn at their own pace, the intellect is challenged in a

developmentally appropriate manner through the Montessori learning materials. These materials and the Montessori philosophy have also taken into account the young child's need for physical activity by providing a large number of gross and fine motor experiences. Likewise, by means of their daily activities within the classroom community, children are able to explore and develop their social and emotional skills. It is our strong belief that we must educate the whole child according to individual needs, enabling the child to grow to his/her fullest potential.

### **ROLE OF THE TEACHER:**

The Montessori teacher has gone through a specialized training in Montessori philosophy, principles and methodology. The teacher's role is to guide the child where needed and introduce the learning materials. One of the primary tasks is to carefully observe the child in order to assist his/her growth and development. These observations also allow the teacher to create and prepare a stimulating environment, meeting the intellectual, psychological, spiritual, and physical needs of the child. The method of teaching is indirect in that it neither imposes upon the child as in direct teaching, nor abandons the child as in a non-directed, permissive approach. Following the child's interest, the teacher actively works to help the child achieve his/her goals.

### **CURRICULUM – PRESCHOOL / KINDERGARTEN**

The Montessori environment contains four basic curriculum areas: Practical Life / Daily Living, Sensorial, Language and Math. It is enriched with art, music, geography, science and physical education.

The materials in each area are sequenced, beginning at the most simple, concrete levels, and then moving into more complex, abstract concepts.

Children freely choose activities from any curriculum area as their interest dictates. Explorations and interactions within the environment help them develop self-discipline, self-knowledge, and independence, as well as enthusiasm for learning, an organized approach to problem-solving and academic skills.

### **QUESTIONS MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED**

#### How is a Montessori class structured?

A Montessori class is un-graded with an age span covering several years. There is a wide range of activities available to the children at all ages and maturity levels which reinforces and makes possible the Montessori ideals of individualized work, progress and independence. The combination of different ages allows the children the opportunity to learn from each other and permits the older children to reinforce their knowledge by sharing their skills with the younger children. We believe that the third year at the primary level is of unique importance and we encourage 5year old children to remain with their pre-primary level class.

#### What are Sensitive Periods?

This is Montessori's name for age periods when the child shows unusual capabilities in acquiring particular skills. Dr Montessori found that the child is able to absorb different subjects more readily at different ages or periods of growth.

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