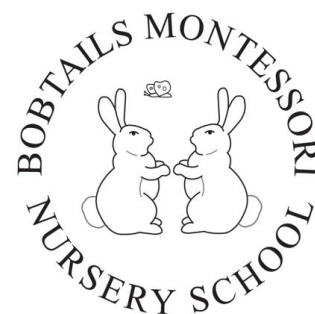


CURRICULUM



Bobtails Montessori is registered by OFSTED and with West Sussex County Council for "The Free Entitlement" through West Sussex Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

In order to qualify for funding, playgroups and nursery schools are inspected by OFSTED at regular intervals by a registered Inspector. The purpose of the inspection is to ensure that the group is providing a development programme that incorporates the Early Years Foundation Stage Principles for children from birth to the end of reception year in school.

Within a planned programme, we provide activities, which use equipment appropriate to the age and stage of development of each child to:

- Stimulate their interest
- Encourage investigation
- Enable children to practice existing skills and
- Extend and acquire new skills

All children are given specific planned learning activities targeted to their individual level of development. Montessori teaching, at all ages and stages, takes account of the individual child's needs interests and developmental level when determining appropriate activities and lessons. Individual records are kept for each child in the group for all ages and stages in development.

Our curriculum includes the following areas of learning and competency:

PROBLEM SOLVING, REASONING AND NUMERACY

We provide opportunities for number work and introduce mathematical concepts in a tangible and sensorial way using both Montessori equipment and practical applications of numbers such as adding, subtracting and dividing. We encourage the children to work with practical applications of quantity and size. Learning is reinforced by the use of songs, games, finger and action rhymes and counting exercises.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

The Montessori classroom encourages your child to interact at every available opportunity with both adults and other children. This encourages the use of language and the expansion of vocabulary and comprehension.

We provide opportunities for children to express themselves and communicate with adults and other children during every part of the Montessori day. We also encourage respect and love of books and an understanding of the importance of language and communication in our lives.

We promote opportunities for the children to tell stories using picture story cards on a one to one basis with an adult, and encourage the children to relate events from their everyday lives with confidence.



CURRICULUM CONTENT...



Exercises in the formation of the phonetic alphabet begin early in the Montessori classroom through working with the sandpaper letters. Children are encouraged to do this at their own pace and are not subject to any time or age consideration.

We encourage each child to recognise their own names and those of others in the group using name cards. The name cards have photographs of each child on the back to aid recognition.

Pencil control begins with the use of the sensorial materials and continues through Montessori work using insets for design. Children will be encouraged to practice writing in sand and later to trace and copy words and phrases using work sheets and games. They learn about the usefulness of writing through role-play when they might write a menu for a restaurant or a prescription from the doctor.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Before children can begin to learn they need to feel secure and confident. We aim to give children the confidence to separate from parents and carers. We give them the freedom to make choices for themselves within a safe, attractive and welcoming environment.

Children are encouraged to take responsibility for the classroom environment and for each other. They are given the confidence to offer and ask for help from both the adults in the group and other children and to be considerate and caring. We value social skills and good manners. Children are encouraged to complete whatever task they start and to tidy away the materials afterwards.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Montessori materials teach the child about their world. We use sensorial materials and pictures to explain about life, nature and planet earth. Children are encouraged to explore their world investigating and experimenting within a safe and stimulating environment.

We learn about other cultures, customs and beliefs recognising and appreciating their own communities and place in the world. Old and new customs and celebrations are enjoyed from different religions and cultures and the children are encouraged to question and explore the passage of time and the world around them.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Our outside play area gives the opportunity for children to extend their knowledge in all six areas of learning, through outdoor activities and imaginative play. Children are encouraged to take part in activities that improve and refine their gross and fine motor skills. We promote an awareness of health and personal hygiene.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Children are encouraged to express themselves in a variety of ways. These include dressing up, role-play, small world activities music and singing art and craft. Montessori exercises include the identification of different textures, colours, sounds, shapes and tastes.

Outdoor activities will be used to reinforce learning in all areas of the Curriculum.

