“Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.”

Dr Maria Montessori
Introduction

The Little House Montessori Nursery School is a small, graduate led Montessori pre-school with a reputation for providing high-quality care and education. It offers ideal preparation for school in a calm, nurturing and loving environment. The setting is owned and run by the Head of School, Lisa Watkins a qualified Montessori Directress and Early Years Teacher.

The school was originally founded in 1996 and is based in an attractive Church Hall in the rural village of Burstow. It is within easy access of Horley, Crawley, Redhill, East Grinstead and surrounding villages.

Children are welcomed from age 2 to 5 years, into small class sizes led by experienced and qualified staff committed to delivering a genuine Montessori education. Morning sessions are held every week day during term time, with optional extended days Monday to Thursday.

Our Vision

Our vision at The Little House is to support every child in their quest to become the best they can be, through engaging them in our rich learning environment and caring for them with genuine affection.

We foster a passion for learning and exploration that will last your child a lifetime, and instil in them moral values which respect the environment as well as people and their cultures.

Our children will leave us with excellent skills of independence, an ability to engage in meaningful play, and knowledge that they are capable, loveable and valuable members of the community.

Contact Details

Head of School: Lisa Watkins
FDA Montessori, BA (hons)
Email: info@littlehousenursery.org
Website: www.littlehousenursery.org
School Address: John Flamsteed Hall
Church Road
Burstow, RH6 9RG
School Telephone: 07938 524184
Session times only
Correspondence Address: 67 The Meadow
Copthorne
Crawley, RH10 3RH

Apr-21
**General Information**

**Age**
Children are accepted from 2 years, and can attend the setting until the end of the term in which their 5th birthday falls, meaning summer born children (1 April – 31 August) can completed their reception year at the nursery.

**Hours/Attendance**
Morning sessions run every week day during term time 9.15 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Extended sessions operate Monday through Thursday 9.15 a.m. – 2.30 p.m for children aged 3 years and over. Children must attend a minimum of two sessions per week at age 2 years, and we expect children to attend at least 15 hours per week once they claim the Early Years Free Entitlement.

**Snack**
A drink of water or milk, as well as a selection of fruit and vegetables are provided by the school for snack. Drinking water is available throughout the session. Parents are asked to provide their child with a packed lunch in line with our healthy eating policy.

**Clothing**
Children should wear comfortable clothing which they can manage by themselves. Items of clothing embroidered with the nursery logo can be purchased from the nursery (Fleece jacket £10.00: Polo shirt £7.00). Please provide a pair of plimsolls and a pair of wellington boots to be kept at school. These items must be clearly named so your child can recognise them.

**Record Keeping and Reporting to Parents**
Teachers use pioneering software that helps them to deliver the best possible educational experience for young children. They use the system to record the activities your child engages in and to share information with you.

Your child’s key person will regularly review the collective observations and use them to plan future activities for your child. Parents have access to view photographs and records of our observations through a dedicated secure website.

Your child’s key person will share information with you regularly and will meet with you during the first three weeks for a ‘settling-in review’, which may also include a ‘2 year check’ if your child is under 36 months. In addition you will be invited to meet with your child’s key person at the nursery once a term for a more formal review of your child’s progress. If there is anything you wish to discuss with Lisa you may of course speak to her at the nursery, or by telephone during afternoons/early evenings or by appointment.

**Equal Opportunities**
We welcome all children and their families regardless of ethnicity, culture or religion, gender or ability.

**Admission**
A child’s place is confirmed upon receipt of the Registration Form and Registration Fee of £45.00. Priority is given to children who solely attend The Little House Montessori Nursery School. Fees are due termly in advance. A full term’s notice or fees in lieu will be payable if a child is not continuing at nursery school, or reduces their weekly sessions.
Our Aims

Important Note
We strongly recommend children do not attend other pre-school settings, as this is not compatible with the Montessori approach of care and education.

• To create a happy, calm, industrious classroom.

• To provide stimulating activities and expert guidance to further every child’s individual development.

• To increase children’s self-motivation and independence.

• To help children develop their powers of concentration and self discipline.

• To promote children’s personal, emotional, social, moral and spiritual development.

• To encourage the development of children’s physical control, mobility, awareness of space and manipulative skills in an indoor and outdoor environment.

• To give children a thorough grasp of the English language, including developing competence in talking, listening and in becoming readers and writers.

• To provide children with a thorough foundation of numeracy through practical activity.

• To establish a firm link with the real world, thereby encouraging a love of nature.

• To provide a foundation for historical, geographical, scientific and technological learning.

• To develop the child’s imagination, ability to communicate and express ideas and feelings in creative ways.

• To include parents in their child’s journey of learning and development, and offer support and guidance on their own journey as parents of young children.

“By the age of three the child has already laid down the foundation of his personality as a human being and only then does he need the help of special scholastic influences”

Maria Montessori

Apr-21
Our Montessori Classroom

Montessori philosophy is a child-centred developmental educational method, based on theories of child development originated by Italian educator Maria Montessori (1870-1952). Maria Montessori believed the early years of a child’s life to be the most important for developing the child’s intelligence.

Entering our classroom, you will immediately notice a calm but busy atmosphere, where the children are involved in small group or individual activities. The equipment they are using was largely designed by Maria Montessori, to develop the child’s concentration co-ordination and independence. The children are given freedom within a structured environment to choose activities that interest them, and to work with the materials for as long as they need. We support the need for each child to develop their learning and their own individual pace.

Montessori teachers closely observe each individual child, kindly and gently directing them in their learning rather than entertaining them or telling them what to do. When a teacher notices an interest awakening in the child, she introduces him to an activity that will satisfy his/her learning desire.

Nothing in our classroom is there by accident; every activity is there for a reason and has a specific purpose. Specially designed Montessori activities aid the child’s development of their sensory, numeric, language, scientific and practical skills. Current research in paediatric neuropsychology supports Maria Montessori’s observation that the child's brain is actually constructed by movement. In order for children to make sense of the world, they need to experience with their senses, need to touch, move, manipulate, smell, taste and construct. All Montessori activities require the child to be active, or ‘hands-on’.

In our classroom, mistakes are a means of learning. 'How could I make this work?' is the question which keeps our children busy and motivated. "I did it all by myself" is a phrase we hear every day accompanied with the big smiles on our children's faces. Our children do not need rewards or stickers, but develop their self-esteem and self-respect naturally, and children who feel self-respect, naturally learn to respect others as well.
Your Child’s Day

9.15  Children arrive, change into plimsolls and self-register
  *Whilst your child is settling them you will come in to help them with this part of the day.*

9.20  Free choice, child or adult-led individual or small group activities* from the Montessori curriculum, including access to the outside area and the opportunity for walks in the surrounding countryside

10.15 Snack available

12.10 Group circle time, including lessons of Grace and Courtesy, sharing of news, singing and/or story time*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning only children</th>
<th>Children staying for extended session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.20  Put on outdoor clothing and collect items for home</td>
<td>Toilet and wash hands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12.30 Children collected | Take place at the lunch table

13.15 Afternoon activity
  Monday – Early Science
  Tuesday – Yoga
  Wednesday – Dance First
  Thursday – Tots in Sports

14.20 Put on outdoor clothing and collect items for home

14.30 Children collected

*Inclusion in group activities is optional for all children*
**Curriculum**

The well planned and resourced curriculum has been developed to take children’s learning forward and to provide opportunities for all children to feel valued and to achieve success.

The resources and equipment in the nursery are prepared and set out to reflect the Montessori philosophy of education and include a wide range of Montessori materials and activities. The Montessori curriculum works in harmony with the areas of learning and development as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage, as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Montessori Curriculum Areas</th>
<th>EYFS Areas of Learning and Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical Life</td>
<td>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensorial</td>
<td>Understanding the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expressive Arts and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Communication and Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>Understanding the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative</td>
<td>Expressive Arts and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The children have daily access to a secure outdoor area with an all weather surface, and enjoy walks through the surrounding countryside.

The practitioners work closely with parents to enable each child to develop to their full potential, and to provide support through each child’s transition to their Primary School. We respect each parent/carer’s role as the child’s first educator and endeavour to develop a strong and effective partnership with each parent/carer. We provide regular information in a variety of ways including our website, the My Montessori Child system, notices, meetings and progress reports.
Staff

The nursery is owned and managed by Lisa, she is supported by Helena, Charlotte and Sophie who are also highly qualified and experienced childcare workers. Research tells us that the qualification level of practitioners has a direct bearing on the well-being and outcomes for young children. All practitioners hold, or are studying towards, a relevant childcare qualification and attend regular courses to further their professional development.

Qualifications

Lisa Watkins  
*Early Years Teacher*  
*Montessori Directress*

- Early Years Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree  
  *University of Greenwich*
- Early Years Professional Status  
  *Children’s Workforce Development Council & University of Greenwich*
  N.B. This is the graduate level professional accreditation for the Early Years workforce
- Foundation Degree Early Years (Montessori)  
  *Kent and Sussex Montessori Centre & University of Greenwich*
- Montessori Early Childhood Teaching Diploma  
  *Kent and Sussex Montessori Centre*

Helena McGill  
*Early Years Educator*  
*Montessori Directress*

- Montessori Nursery Foundation  
  *London Montessori Centre*
- Qualified Teacher Status  
  *Brighton University*
- Bachelor of Science Degree Combined Science  
  *University of Sunderland*

Charlotte Cooper  
*Early Years Educator*

- Diploma for the Children and Young People’s Workforce  
  *Council for Awards in Children’s Care and Education (CACHE)*

Sophie Morley  
*Montessori Student*

- Studying Diploma in Early Years  
  *Council for Awards in Children’s Care and Education (CACHE)*

Additional DBS checked support staff are available as necessary.
School Fees – September 2020

Children not in receipt of Early Years Free Entitlement funding

Morning Session
9.15 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. £19.95

Extended Session – available the term a child turns 3 years
9.15 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. £31.95

Early Years Free Entitlement for 3 & 4 Year Olds
All families are entitled to claim Early Years Free Entitlement from the term following their child’s third birthday. This allows parents to claim a maximum of 15 hours a week of early education for 38 weeks a year, completely free of charge. Once children are claiming this entitlement we require them to attend a minimum of 3 extended sessions or 5 morning sessions each week.

Some families where both parents are working (or sole parent in the case of lone parent families) will be able to claim up to 30 hours funding, although a maximum of 23 hours may be taken at The Little House due to operating restrictions.

Morning Session Hours Funded* Additional Cost
9.15 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. 3 £6.95

Extended Session
9.15 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. 5 £9.95

*Please remember you can only claim a maximum of either 15 or 30 hours per week depending on your circumstances, including hours claimed through another Early Years provider. If your child’s attendance exceeds this limit additional hours will be charged at £6.00 per hour.

Fees are payable termly in advance and a full term's notice must be given in writing when a child is to leave nursery, otherwise a full term's fees must be paid. Full payment must be received within seven days, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed, otherwise a charge of 5% will be levied. Refunds will not be made for holiday taken in term time or other child absence.

Apr-21
**Free Childcare for Two Year Olds (FEET)**
Some families are entitled to claim FEET from the term following their child’s second birthday. This allows parents to claim a maximum of 15 hours a week of early education for 38 weeks a year, completely free of charge. Information is available from Surrey Family Information Service, please use the following link to find out more.


If your child is entitled to claim this funding we require them to attend 5 mornings per week.

**Childcare Choices**

The government offers additional financial support to some families to help with childcare costs. For more information please go the following website

https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

**Late Collection Charge**

Children must arrive and depart on time. Please note a late collection charge of £20.00 will be levied for every 15 minutes, or part thereof, for late collections. Should you be unavoidably delayed it is essential you notify us using the school telephone number.
Term Dates

**Autumn Term 2021**

Monday 6 September  Term Begins
Monday 25 October to  Friday 29 October  Half Term
Friday 17 December  Term Ends

**Spring Term 2022**

Tuesday 4 January  Term Begins
Monday 14 February to  Friday 18 February  Half Term
Friday 1 April  Term Ends

**Summer Term 2022**

Monday 18 April  Term Begins
Monday 30 May to  Friday 3 June  Half Term
Friday 22 July  Term Ends