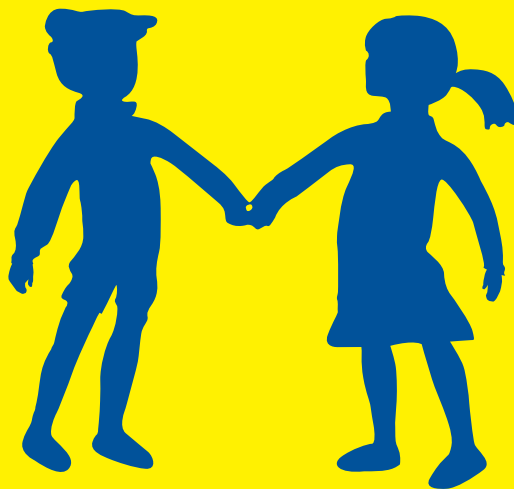


The Little Learners



M O N T E S S O R I

Established 1993

"The Little Learners strive in creating a safe, secure and stimulating environment in which each individual child has the opportunity to develop their full potential"

Welcome



Thank you for your interest in The Little Learners Montessori, we make it our duty to care for each unique child who comes to our nursery



Teresa Hamilton-Heward

We are accredited by the MEAB Montessori Accreditation Scheme. With this knowledge that fulfils the criteria of a high quality Montessori provision we are confident that parents can feel assured we are a nursery with a high quality benchmark.

At the Little Learners we offer Montessori education for children aged between 6 months and 5 years. Our Montessori ethos combined with our high quality care and respect for young children is what we pride ourselves in.

As parents we know you will want to make the right decision for your child and we aim to meet and satisfy your requirements where childcare and education is concerned. The environment in which your child will be cared for will be safe and stimulating. It is professionally planned, expertly staffed and will provide opportunities for the development of your child as a whole.

The Little Learners strives to work in partnership with you, the parents, in the early years of your child's life. Taking children from 6 months old requires a great deal of skill and experience in order to keep your child safe and develop them as a whole. We believe our team offers these qualities to a very high standard.

Children develop skills in independence, concentration and above all social skills, throughout their time at the Little Learners Montessori. We follow Maria Montessori's philosophy of "care of self, care of others, and care for the environment".



Teresa Hamilton-Heward
Mont. Diploma (Distinction)
Montessori Assessor

Teresa founded the Little Learners in 1993 and prides her settings for outstanding Montessori quality.



Our Aims

We aim to make learning enjoyable, exciting and challenging, which will give a good foundation to children for many happy years to come.

It is said by Dr Maria Montessori:

"The most important period of life is not the age of university studies but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six".

The early years of a child's life is when they have the ability to learn without effort. They absorb information like a sponge, making it crucial that the right environment is provided for them.

The Little Learners has the environment especially prepared to meet the needs of the developing child. Each child is given the freedom within a carefully structured environment to develop naturally at their own pace. Everything in the classroom is child sized and laid out on shelves ready for them to use. The classroom is filled with stimulating materials and Montessori trained teachers provide guidance for the children, treating them with respect at all times. Children are encouraged to socialise with other children and taught to respect each other. They will gradually grow in confidence, become independent and show ever increasing levels of concentration with a want to learn. We have no religious commitment, we take pupils from all religious and cultural backgrounds and are proud to be able to prepare children for both private and state education.

At the Little Learners we follow a curriculum which incorporates Montessori learning with the Early Years Foundation Stage.



What is Montessori?

Dr Maria Montessori was an inspirational woman who studied and analysed the world of a child, creating an approach towards their growth and education that incorporated every aspect of their development to allow each to fulfil their potential into adult life.

Activities for everyday living

These exercises are enjoyable tasks based on day to day activities in the home. It promotes independence, co-ordination, fine and gross motor skills. It is through these exercise that your child will develop concentration and dexterity.

Sensorial

These activities will stimulate each of the senses and develop the child's ability to refine their senses, thus preparing the child for the later Montessori activities such as language and maths. Some of the materials used are listed below:

- Pink tower
- Knobbed cylinders
- Rough and smooth boards
- Sound boxes

Literacy

Reading is promoted by sound recognition and other phonic activities. When a child is ready they will start by being introduced to sandpaper letters, where the sounds are taught on an individual basis. They will then move onto the large moveable alphabet, where the child will build three and four letter words phonetically. The final stage of the literacy curriculum is when the child is ready to begin reading Montessori scheme books.

Numeracy and Arithmetic

When the child's interest in numbers has been developed the child will be introduced to the maths curriculum. This includes the five stages of maths activities, from the simple exercises to the more complex. Examples of these are:

- Number rods
- Sandpaper numbers
- Spindle boxes
- Cards and counters
- Fraction circles
- Addition and subtraction rods and beads
- Multiplication and subtraction boards

Physical

Children have the opportunity to develop their fine and gross motor skills within the Montessori curriculum. We set up activities indoors and outdoors, allowing the children to see the garden as a daily extension to the indoor classroom. This is part of the free flow environment.



Creative

Creative development is encouraged through many forms of play. Some of these are listed below:

- Art and crafts
- Drama
- Imaginative play
- Painting
- Messy play
- Home corner – role play

ICT

Day to day life shows an increasing demand for Information Communication Technology. Therefore, we introduce children to ICT from a young age using resources such as laptops, tablets, digital cameras, video cameras, CD players, metal detectors and programmable objects.

Knowledge and Understanding

The world is explored in many ways at the Little Learners. Our curriculum covers History, Zoology, Geography and Science. We also think it is important to celebrate varying festivals as well as children's birthdays.

Curriculum for babies & toddlers

At the Little Learners we have a special curriculum for babies and toddlers that incorporates aspects of the Montessori curriculum, such as practical life activities. For the younger babies we have heuristic play and treasure baskets for exploration of their senses. We also include activities such as classified cards, messy play, role play and physical play. We have a dedicated programme called "FAMILY" which reports each individual child's routine to their parents directly through email.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Sports classes, Yoga, Dance and Drama

The national curriculum for physical education aims to ensure that all the children need to develop and excel in a broad range of physical activities.

Our aim is to give the children the earliest possible start in developing a healthy and active life-style. Sports classes, Yoga and Dance also help children to develop body awareness, to learn how to use their bodies in a healthy way, to help to build concentration and to increase their confidence and positive self-image.

We use a number of external companies throughout our branches to deliver exciting lessons for physical activities and foreign languages. A wide range of props are used during every class including puppets, scarves, ribbons, instruments, parachutes, bubbles and more.

Ballet

Children get the opportunity to practise ballet. Our Montessori curriculum involves using the "walking on the line" technique, which Dr. Montessori began using as a practical life exercise to promote perfect equilibrium and to consolidate the body's movements. This exercise helps the child develop their balance and strengthens the mind's control of the body's movements.

Testimonials

Healthy Mealtimes

At the Little Learners we understand that a healthy balanced diet is important for your child. Our staff also know how important mealtimes are to develop independence, good manners and social skills. All of our menus are prepared by our chef who works together with our own qualified health and nutritionist.

The children are encouraged to take turns laying out the table and serving their own food, to encourage independence. Teachers are allocated to each table to eat alongside the children and are always at hand to assist the children if necessary and to encourage children in their eating. Children will be able to pour for themselves after undergoing practical life activities. We have a rolling snack table in our environment which contains fresh drinking water which is available throughout the day, so that the Montessori work cycle is not disturbed. Activities are also carried out within the nursery to promote health eating such as cooking, planting vegetables and smoothie making.

Online Learning Journals

At the Little Learners Montessori parents can access their child's Early Years Foundation Stage Learning Journal online. This will include photos of their child's activities which is linked in accordance to the Early Years Foundation Stage Development Matters Milestones.

Nursery Management App

We use an exceptional nursery management app in which we send parents regular newsletters and notifications direct to their email.

Parents can access their financial account and child's information via the app. We also have a dedicated accounts manager who is always on hand and happy to address any queries.

Training

We have our very own training centre for our Little Learners staff next to our Watford branch, called Montessori Apprentice Academy. By having our own training centre, our staff are trained to our Little Learners highest standards. We offer training in Montessori, Early Years and many CPD qualifications.

Our Staff

At the Little Learners we have a dedicated team of highly trained Montessori staff and qualified childcare specialists who concentrate on delivering the highest quality childcare to your child. We work with parents on a regular basis to make sure that their child is receiving the best care.

The nursery directors are committed to excellence in Early Years. All the nursery directors are trained to the highest standards in Early Years. Jenna works as a freelance Early Years Associate Inspector for Ofsted and holds a PGCE in Early Years Professional Status (level 7). She is also trained as a Safeguarding trainer. James, our other director, also holds a PGCE in Early Years (level 7).

All staff members are suitably vetted through the enhanced criminal records check Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). We hold regular supervisions with our staff to identify further training and development needs. We also hold in-house training in Montessori, First aid and Safeguarding. A key person will be appointed to look after your child and will be responsible for your child's development. We also hold parent meetings once every term which is an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress. We also hold parent partnership events such as concerts, coffee mornings, cultural days and other events.



"All children make outstanding progress in relation to their different starting points. Children who learn English as an additional language, or receive extra support, equally make outstanding gains in their learning. Children are exceptionally well prepared for the next stages in their learning, including starting school."

Ofsted

"All the staff were very supportive & caring & we could tell that they genuinely had a lot of time, love & energy for all the children. The Nursery teachers provided us with useful feedback verbally at the end of each day as well as in the form of a daily email. After the first 2 weeks it was clear to us that not only had we made the best decision for us with regards to work but we had also clearly made the correct decision as to the choice of Nursery for our son."

Parent

"Staff form excellent relationships with children and their parents. Their attentive, caring and nurturing approach help children settle quickly into the daily routines and make friends. Children develop a very strong sense of community and self-worth."

Ofsted

"Kaiyan has had the most wonderful time at little learners. He started when he was 14 months old and from day 1 he loved it. All the staff are so caring and nurturing. They treat all the kids as individuals and take so much time with each child. I love when he comes home and sings all the songs that he has learnt from nursery. The Little Learners nursery has been an invaluable start to Kaiyan's educational journey."

Parent

"Highly effective partnerships with parents and outside professionals enable an excellent joint-approach to the care and support for individual children."

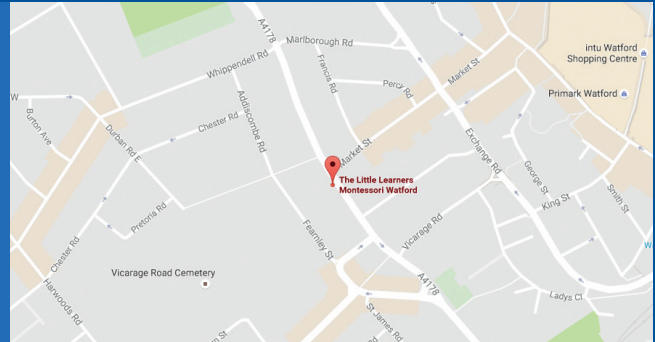
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Our Nurseries

The Little Learners Montessori Watford (HQ & Training Centre)

62-78 Merton Road,
Watford, Hertfordshire,
WD18 0WY

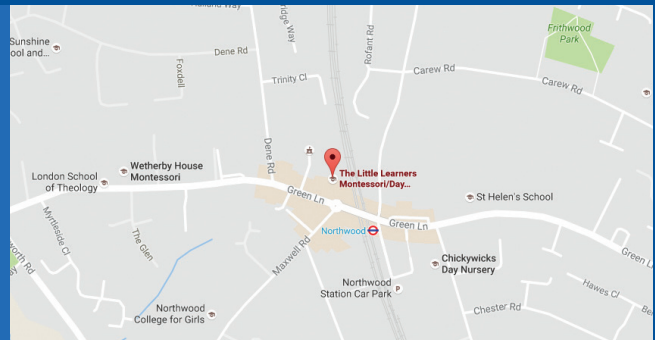
Open: 7.30am - 6.30pm, 50 weeks a year
Tel: 01923 804 488
watford@thelittlelearners.co.uk



The Little Learners Montessori Northwood

The Hall,
10 Oaklands Gate,
Northwood, HA6 3AA

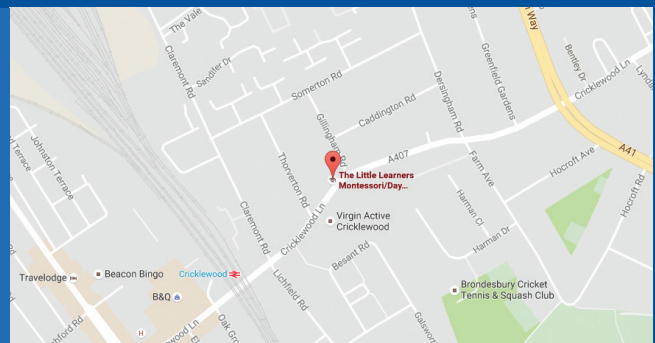
Open: 7.30am - 6.30pm, 50 weeks a year
Tel: 01923 824 324
northwood@thelittlelearners.co.uk



The Little Learners Montessori Cricklewood

St Vitus Hall,
Entrance next to St. Agnes Centre,
Gillingham Road, (off Cricklewood Lane),
Cricklewood, NW2 1HR

Open: 7.30am - 6.30pm, 48 weeks a year
Tel: 0208 450 3322
cricklewood@thelittlelearners.co.uk



The Little Learners Montessori Wembley

United Reformed Church Hall,
The Broadway, East Lane,
Wembley, HA9 7NN

Open: 9am - 3pm, Term time only
Tel: 0208 904 1001
wembley@thelittlelearners.co.uk

