



**Summertown Montessori Nursery**  
**Lower Hall**  
**Portland Road**  
**Summertown**  
**Oxford OX2 7EZ**  
[www.montessorinorthoxford.org](http://www.montessorinorthoxford.org)  
**Tel. 01865-311364/554954**

Dear Parent

Thank you for your enquiry. Please find enclosed, a Prospectus, a list of Regulations and an Application form.

If you would like to enrol your child at the Nursery, please read the regulations and the Prospectus carefully and return the completed Application form as soon as possible as places may be taken up quickly. If any of your details change, please notify us immediately (telephone numbers, address, allergies, etc.).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to telephone us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs B M-Smith,  
Senior Manager  
(email: [enquiries@montessorinorthoxford.org](mailto:enquiries@montessorinorthoxford.org))

## Summertown Montessori Nursery

**Setting:** Summertown Montessori Nursery is situated in a bright, spacious and modernized stone-built building just off Banbury Road in Summertown, North Oxford. The nursery premises occupy the entire lower floor, comprising a large open-plan hall, a kitchen, toilets, a cloakroom, an office and a securely fenced garden. Access is via Banbury/Portland Road with off-street parking available in the hall car park. SMN is registered with OFSTED for up to 30 children, between 1 and 5 years of age. The small informal nature of the setting is conducive to both strong staff-parent interaction and to a personalized educational plan for each child. We use the Key Person approach, meaning each child will have a dedicated member of staff for their well-being. The nursery serves a mixed-income, multi-cultural and international community.

**Staff:** The nursery is directed by a senior childcare professional with over 20 years' experience. The running of the day is carried out by an on-site supervisor/manager, with the other staff comprising of a Montessori teacher, a Montessori assistant and early years practitioners qualified to NVQ Level 2/3. Additionally, the nursery may have trainees or work-place students assisting at any given time. Each full-time staff member has a career development plan and is committed to further training.

**Ethos:** Every parent wants the best for their child. It is now widely accepted that a child's pre-school years can be critical for later growth, seeding and cultivating aspirations to realize their potential. At SMN, we will assist each child's emotional, physical, social and intellectual development by stimulating the child's natural thirst for knowledge and the desire to explore his or her natural environment. Our overall aim is to provide your child with the "right" conditions to encourage their individual talents to blossom to the full. We aim to achieve this through thoughtful and sensitive observation of each child which is then used to inform subsequent planning for that child. Our desire is that the experience gained in the colourful, culturally-diverse environment of Summertown Montessori gives a firm foundation for further education and, moreover, for life.

**Our Approach:** In accordance with the Montessori approach of a carefully planned environment, the "teacher" will direct the child towards activities that will fulfill his or her needs. The children will be free to choose their own activities and each experience is presented individually to the child. Within small groups, each child will be helped individually to fully use and understand specifically designed equipment which develops the senses, aids the teaching of reading, writing and mathematics and introduces art, geography, nature studies and the concept of time. The curriculum also includes music and movement, French, local nature and interest visits, familiarization with computers and, throughout, an awareness of different cultures and their traditions.

## What is Montessori?

### Origin

The Montessori approach to education of the child is based on the principles developed in the early 1900's by an Italian educationalist, Dr Maria Montessori. Dr Montessori has since become recognised as an outstanding pioneer in early-years education and her ideas have filtered through into mainstream education today.

### Definition

Quite simply, the Montessori approach unleashes a child's natural curiosity in a controlled manner and directs it in a purposeful way. The main tenets underpinning the Montessori philosophy are:

- A child up to 6 years of age has an enormous capacity to acquire knowledge, due to the so-called "absorbent mind".
- A child will be very disposed to acquiring knowledge, i.e. learning, through careful stimulation and the fostering of self-respect and respect for others.
- The environment is paramount in creating the conditions to fully engage the child to learn, at their own pace and without restriction or criticism.

### Further Information

Montessori nurseries differentiate themselves clearly from other nurseries by the environment created in the classroom. The furniture, teaching materials and learning tools are designed to establish an environment where the child experiences learning which is fascinating and absorbing, stimulating further discovery, rational thought and independence. With such experiences developed in the formative years, a positive attitude to learning is established and carries through to later life.

The role of the "teacher" is different from that of the conventional teacher. Through careful observation of the child, the "teacher" identifies signs of readiness towards further progress, thereby directing the child towards activities that will fulfil the child's individual needs. Hence, a Montessori "teacher" is referred to as a Directress. The Montessori approach is not simply concerned with intellectual development but seeks to create a "well-rounded" individual. As well as mental development, physical, social and emotional development are also promoted in equal measures. The Montessori approach is a universal one, equally suitable for the gifted and those with special needs, and thrives in an international or multi-cultural setting, as encountered at Field House. The overall goal is to foster a confident, happy child, instilled with an enthusiasm for learning and armed with a healthy respect for others. For further information, please visit [www.montessori.edu](http://www.montessori.edu)

## **Nursery Grant and OFSTED**

SMN qualifies for a UK Government grant for 3 and 4 year olds, as well as funding for some 2 year olds. Every few years, our nursery will be inspected by the Office of Standards in Education (OFSTED) as a requirement for obtaining the grants. We strive to achieve a balance between Montessori teaching practice and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) as defined by the Department for Education (DfE).

## **Learning and Development**

The EYFS defines expectations in children's learning and development by the end of the reception year, i.e. at the end of a child's first year in formal education. There are seven specified areas of learning and development, all of which are inter-related and self-reinforcing. However of these, three areas are defined as crucial:

1. Communication and Language
2. Physical Development
3. Personal, social and emotional development

The remaining four specific areas which strengthen the three prime areas are:

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding of the world
7. Expressive arts and design

The educational programmes that are in place must support all of these areas At SMN, each child will be assisted in making progress in each in accordance with their own rhythm and interest level. The enabling environment of the Montessori setting and the fostering of self-respect and positive relationships with those around the child provide the basis for obtaining the appropriate levels of skill, knowledge and experience in all 7 areas when they leave the nursery to start formal education.

## **Grant for Childcare**

All 3 and 4 year olds (and disadvantaged 2 year olds) are entitled to 15 hours per week of free early years education for 38 weeks of the year. This continues up to compulsory school age, i.e. the term following their fifth birthday. For advice on applying for the grant, please speak to the Nursery Manager.

## A Typical Day

8.00	Settling in / Stories / Games
9.00	Montessori equipment presented / Free choice /Nursery Curriculum
10.00	Mid-morning drink / Snack*
10.20	Art / Project work
11.00	Garden / Free play
11.30	Circle time / French
12.00 - 2.45	Lunch / home
12.45	Singing
13.00	Montessori Art / Craft
14.00	Garden
17.30	Home

\*Snack: fresh carrots and apples with milk or water

Please note: This is a rough guide of a typical day but we also do additional activities, for example: Cooking, Drama / Dance, French, Music and Movement, Computer Familiarisation

## **TERM DATES**

### **AUTUMN TERM 2019**

Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup> until Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **WINTER TERM 2019/2020**

Monday November 25<sup>th</sup> until Friday February 14<sup>th</sup> (2020)

### **SPRING TERM 2020**

Monday February 17<sup>th</sup> until Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>

### **SUMMER TERM 2020**

Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> until Friday July 31<sup>st</sup>

## **HOLIDAYS**

### **CHRISTMAS 2019/20**

Closed, Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup> (2019)  
Reopen, Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup> (2020)

### **EASTER 2020**

Closed, Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Reopen, Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>

### **SUMMER 2020**

Closed, Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Reopen, Monday August 31<sup>st</sup>