



PARENT INFORMATION

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OUR SCHOOL

WHO WAS DR. MONTESSORI?



Dr Montessori, born in Italy 1870, became the first women doctor in her country. Her early work was with retarded and very poor children. Through close observation and experimentation, Dr Montessori devised a system of education that helped handicapped and deprived children learn, as well as normal and average children.

The first school that Dr Montessori established in the over populated district of Rome, was known as 'Casa di Bambini' or the Children's House, within which her methods became world-known. Schools and teachers training centres have been established in many countries in many corners of the world, and the methods adapted to suit the needs of different culture and societies.

The Montessori way offers a sensible, structured system that allows a child to develop at his/her own pace, using his/her own abilities, with the guidance of a trained

Montessori directress, and the use of specially designed Montessori materials

The Montessori Method ensures that all areas of the child's development are catered for; emotional, social, physical, intellectual and spiritual. Each child will learn to work alone and with others in the carefully structured environment selecting work that appeals to his/her own interests. The Montessori classroom is non-competitive and therefore your child has many opportunities for success.



HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

The Children's House was established in 1996 by the Director, Lucy Barois. She is a fully qualified Nursery and Primary Montessori teacher, (birth to 11 years) and Teacher Trainer. She holds a BA (Hons) in Early Years Studies and MA, Masters in Educational Leadership and Management. She has 30 years teaching experience, in many different countries around the world, which includes the establishment of a Montessori Preschool in Tonga, South Pacific, and in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Both these schools were set up with funds raised on her initiative.


All teachers employed in the Children's House Seychelles, follow a carefully monitored continuous professional development program, and all teachers are professionally qualified.



STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL

The Montessori classrooms are arranged to follow the developmental needs of the child; PRESCHOOL (Blue and Yellow Groups) 3 to 6 years, LOWER PRIMARY (Green and Turquoise Groups) 6 to 9 years and UPPER PRIMARY (Emerald Group) 9 to 12 years. Each classroom is set up to enable the children of different ages to have equal access to learning in the way that suits them best.

The preschool classes have 18 children each, one qualified teacher and two teaching assistants. The primary classes have between 16 and 18 children with one qualified teacher and one teaching assistant.

A photograph of children playing soccer on an outdoor field, overlaid with a blue tint. The scene shows several children in light-colored clothing, some with their feet on the ball, and an adult in a pink shirt observing. The background features a chain-link fence and trees under a clear sky.

SCHOOL VALUES, PHILOSOPHY, VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

OUR VALUES

Respect: Treating everyone with patience, consideration and courtesy and encouraging the same in return.

Passion: Being enthusiastic and celebrating individual and team achievements.

Commitment: Dedicating our energies to achieving excellence in everything we do.

SCHOOL'S PHILOSOPHY

To create and sustain a safe, enriching environment that meets the needs of the children, insuring that the care and education provided facilitate an independent, co-operative and happy school community.

Vision: to provide a high standard of care and education that is committed to the Montessori principles. These principles support the emotional, social and intellectual development of all children. The school respects diversity in all its forms and encourages a community of equality and unity, initiating a pathway for lifelong learning.

Mission: Consistent open dialogue with honest communication between all partners, which will encourage independent enquiry and exploration. Close partnership between home and school will inform the child's development and learning by building on their strengths through progressive education and creating new opportunities for learning.

Objectives:

- To have a philosophy and awareness of unity through diversity with an equal, dynamic and happy environment policy.
- Address any needs or uncooperative situations immediately.
- Focus on strengths of all the members of the community with gratitude, forgiveness and acceptance in big doses!
- Awareness that both adults and children are learning from one another.
- Recognition that emotions and behaviour are not who the person is but rather an expression of feelings.
- Recognize that primary and preventative healthcare is a large part of good practice in the care and education of children.
- Emphasis placed on supporting the person in a compassionate and non-judgmental way to avoid the unhealthy avoidance of repression or emotion, and acknowledgement or unaccountability for the consequences of our actions/behavior.

This applies to all members of the school community; children, staff and parents.

CLASSROOM STRUCTURE

Preschool (Blue Group and Yellow Group) is specifically designed to stimulate and engage children's senses, enabling exploration and discovery in order to address each child's insatiable curiosity. Here they will cultivate strong characteristics such as motivation, concentration, self-discipline and a genuine love of learning.

Primary School (Green Group and Turquoise Group) is where the child seeks challenges through asking the big questions; Who am I? What am I? And where did I come from? They have a fascination for history, geography and science encouraged by practical experimentation and exploration through multi-mediums. These busy youngsters also need plenty of physical activity and rigor outdoors.

Upper Primary (Emerald Group) Learning in peace. Growing in confidence. Building on the foundation of lower primary, our upper primary Montessori classes encompass all spheres of development: intellectual, physical, social and emotional.

It is a period of consolidation in children's growth when they interact in a socially conscious way, applying their energies to their chosen activities. At this age, children tend to gravitate towards others in their environment as they are no longer solitary beings, and they often choose to work with their peers on projects of mutual interest.

The ability to function purposefully and productively as part of a harmonious group and, more broadly, the wider world – is at the heart of Montessori education.

DAILY TIMETABLE

Punctuality is a concept that children need to be in a habit of. Please help by making sure that your child is brought to and picked up from the school on time every day.

7.30 am	School doors will open for children. (Children should be at school at 8.00 latest)
8.00 am	School starts
8.15 - 11.00 am	Individual and small group work period with Montessori materials. Open snack time, singing and music sessions. Organized games and outdoor activities such as sand and water play and gardening.
11.00 am	Older Group, Outdoor play time
11.45 - 12.00 am	Reading and quiet time.
11.30 am	School finishes for morning only children
11.45 am	Children eat lunch, bath and sleep
2.00 pm	Afternoon extra-curricular activities
3.15 pm	Afternoon tea
3.30 pm	School finishes

School finishes at 1.30 for all full time children every Friday

GENERAL INFORMATION

FOOD AND SNACK TIMES. The children's health and diet are carefully monitored by the staff. Healthy snacks are provided and included in the fees and consist of fresh local fruit and other snack options; cornflakes, crackers, yoghurt or bread sandwiches. Parents are requested to send a bottle of water only. No snack boxes in school please.

Lunch is provided by Seychef, an external caterer, not included in the school fees. Invoices will be issued by the caterer at the start of each term. Meals are healthy with abundance of vegetables, no processed foods nor pork with two vegetarian meals per week.

BIRTHDAYS. Please refer to the Birthday Policy, if you would like to organize a celebration during school hours, we would prefer small healthy cupcakes rather than big sticky sweet iced cakes. No party bags or gifts allowed.

TOYS. If children bring toys to school it often leads to disappointment and resentment. So please no toys. If children would like to share any particular object of interest, books and pictures, it would be welcomed and shared with the other children.

HOLIDAYS. The School will generally follow the term and holiday dates of the Seychellois schools.

PARENT WORKSHOPS. Parent Workshops will be held once per term, so that parents may have a clear understanding of what and how their children are being taught in the school. They cover specific aspects of the Montessori philosophy. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in their child's education, and to be part of the school.

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE is a group of active parents who give their time to help organize fund raising activities, support the staff in many ways and generally provide a helping hand when they can. Any parents can be a member and offer their help. Meetings are generally held once per month.

PARENT – TEACHER MEETINGS. Each term parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress individually with the Lead Teacher. If, at any other time parents would like to discuss anything with the Director, appointments can be made for after school hours. (12.00 noon) School reports will be given at the end of the year. If parents feel that they have any skills or hobbies that they could share with the school and children, it would be most welcomed.

If your child is to be collected by someone other than yourself or spouse, please inform the staff.

•**HEALTH.** If your child has a fever, or any signs of contagious illness, kindly keep him at home until he is well. If your child develops signs of sickness at school, you will be contacted immediately, for collection. In case of accidents, our first aid trained teachers will take care of your children, until medical advice can be sought, and parents informed. If children are found with head lice they will be asked to remain at home until they have been treated and the nits and lice gone. Children will not be allowed to school with antibiotics.

•**ECO SCHOOL;** We are part of the Eco School Club with the Ministry of Education and participate widely with events and activities linked to sustainable practices and the protection of the environment.

•**COMMUNITY PROJECTS.** Each term the staff organize a variety of Community Projects, involving the children in activities outside school, making links with various organizations such as the School for the Exceptional Child, the President's Village etc. Parents are invited to contribute and participate often.



NEW CHILDREN

Before registering your child please be sure to read the following carefully.

- New parents are invited to visit the School, and discuss details with the Director, (during afternoons). It is advised that parents register their children at birth to be sure of securing a place.
- Parents must fill in and submit one Registration form per child and pay 2000 SR non-refundable Registration Fee.
- Once a place has been secured for your child, the Admission fee should be paid (5000 SR) and fees are due at the start of the term.
- Both parents and child will be able to visit the school together during school hours for orientation, to gain an idea about the school environment.
- Please help to prepare your child for school by taking him to visit friends, and make sure that he is happy to be left with people other than those at home.
- We like to ensure that your child's first school experience is a happy one. With the younger age group it is easier for the small child to first feel confident in the new environment with a parent present. Parents are therefore welcome to stay for short periods of time with their child, for the first two days (during the afternoons).
- When you bring your child to school, please tell him where you are going and that you will return to pick him up. It is strongly advised that you make this parting as brief as possible, so that your child can settle more quickly.
- After two or three days of attending school, children are encouraged to enter school independently, carrying their own bag.
- We will take the greatest care of your child.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform is mandatory for all children, designed to make life easier for parents, staff and ultimately the children. Please make sure that your child comes to school each day wearing a clean, clearly named uniform. All articles of clothing including **underpants and shoes should be clearly named.**

Preschool Uniform; this uniform consists of navy blue shirts and red shorts for the boys, and blue dresses for the girls. Plus a red apron with white edging.

Primary Uniform; navy blue polo shirt and skirt/shorts. Uniforms are available for purchase at the Uniform Shop in Providence.

For hygiene purposes children are requested to remove their shoes in school, but indoor slippers may be provided by parents. All shoes should be easy for the children to manage. **No flip flops or slippers please.**

Uniforms are available for purchase from the Youniform Shop in Mont Fleuri contact number 4325749/2769026 and from Elite Dance and Fitness contact number 2756825.



SCHOOL FEES as from 2024

Please refer to the Payment of School Fees Policy provided on Admission.
There are three terms per year, four months per term.

2500

SR non-refundable
Registration fee

7000

SR Admission Fee non
refundable payable when a
place has been secured for a
child, for second and each
subsequent child will pay 5000
SCR

17950

SR per term full day
Preschool
Lunch and snack fees charged separately

20065

SR per term full day **Primary**

Lunch and snack fees are charged separately

Full-day: 7.00 to 3.30 pm. School ends at 1:30 on Fridays

Fees will not be refunded if the child is absent or takes holidays during school time.

Expatriate Policy; Expats on short term contract are kept on a separate waiting list, Non-refundable Registration fee is 5000 SR and Admission fee 5000 SR. In this way they may gain a space in the school earlier (spaces are kept for 3 expats at every intake, September and January).

**Parents should inform the Directress in writing if their child is leaving the school.
If children leave the school mid term, fees will be paid for the full term.**

THE CURRICULUM

ACTIVITIES OF EVERYDAY LIVING is especially designed for the younger children 2 to 4 years. These activities train the child for life, teaching him how to care for himself and the environment, showing how they are valued as cooperative members of the school community. The children learn how to dress himself by using dressing frames, to wash himself, develop pouring skills, polishing, sweeping, cooking, sewing, and many other useful everyday activities and skills.

THE SENSORIAL AREA focuses on refining the child's senses. Every child learns from their environment through exploration with the senses. The children learn to gauge different heights, lengths, weights, colours, sounds smells, shapes and textures all of which are skills that prepare them indirectly for reading, writing and number work.

The carefully designed **MATHEMATICS MATERIALS** ensures that each child will have the opportunity to manipulate quantities and symbols in a practical way building a solid base for further learning in problem solving and mathematics.

READING AND LANGUAGE SKILLS. English is the teaching medium used within the school, although many children are bi or even tri-lingual. Children are taught to read through the phonic method, learning the sounds of the letters and then blending them together to make words.

GEOGRAPHY, BIOLOGY AND HISTORY are introduced through practical topics chosen each term. Details of the week's project activities are posted on the parent notice board



PAINTING, DRAWING, MOLDING, AND CREATIVE WORK are on-going daily activities, which the children can select whenever they choose.

MUSIC APPRECIATION, SINGING AND DANCE are conducted each day in groups, as with outdoor non-competitive games and activities. Every week Sir Alain visits the school for music and singing lessons. Every week children over 2 ½ attend swimming lessons at the Roche Caiman Pool.

FRENCH AND CREOLE weekly classes.

Children will be invited to help out with the School GARDEN and partake in weekly **COOKING** activities.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES; SWIMMING, YOGA, DANCE, FOOTBALL, ATHLETICS, TABLE TENNIS, TENNIS AND GYM will be rotated as extra options.

If you are interested in studying a copy of the Montessori Curriculum in greater detail, please do not hesitate to consult the Director.





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