



Prospectus

2020

“A Wonderful Nursery Outstanding in every way!”

“The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.....Ofsted November 2005

“The Quality and Standards, and the Overall Effectiveness of the provision is outstanding”Ofsted November 2008

“This Provision is Outstanding – the excellent environment, including the outdoor area, provides rich and varied experiences.....secure bonds are seen throughout the nursery as a result of the inspirational interactions between adults and children”.....Ofsted November 2012

“This Provision is Outstanding – the dedicated team believes all children deserve the best possible start in life...children form strong attachments to staff that help them become independent...staff respond to their needs exceedingly well. Families praise the excellent care, support and opportunities provided.....Children have exceptional speaking skills and behaviour...Ofsted Sept '18

Foreword

Welcome to the Village Montessori Nursery School Prospectus. We hope that you will enjoy reading through it, and hope that you will take up our invitation to come and visit us in the near future.

We are proud to have earned the accolade of 'Outstanding' for the fourth time in 2018. The current inspection report is available to view on the Ofsted website – www.ofsted.gov.uk . Commenting in depth on the quality of our Nursery Education, the Ofsted Inspector said:

“Staff have an excellent understanding of how to promote all areas of learning. They provide a rich learning environment and are highly effective at stimulating each child’s imagination, enthusiasm and enjoyment.”

We believe wholeheartedly that care and education cannot really be separated in the Early Years, and would like to quote a Swiss saying to exemplify this:- “The finest of care is an education in itself, but you cannot educate the child unless you care for him first.”

We believe the main reason that our children do so well is because we really do care for them, and, of course, their families as well – Ofsted said

“Children form a strong bond and attachment to staff that helps them to become rapidly independent. Staff respond to their needs exceedingly well. Partnerships with parents are excellent. Families praise the excellent care, support and learning opportunities the staff provide for their children.”

Our aim is:-

“For each and every child to ‘blossom’ through his or her time with us -

leaving our care when richer in social skills, life skills and with a love of

learning that will last a lifetime.”



In order to achieve this aim our objectives are:-

- ✧ To provide the very best of childcare – full of love, laughter and understanding.
- ✧ To provide the very best of Early Years Education – full of play and concrete, exciting, stimulating experiences.
- ✧ To value, respect and include each and every child regardless of gender, race, religion, ability or disability.
- ✧ To listen to each and every child and to allow them to become independent learners.
- ✧ To work in partnership with parents and carers for the good of their child.

Teaching

Our teaching is based on the revised version of the Early Years Foundation Stage which was introduced in September 2012.

We also often (but not always) do this through a central theme – usually based around specific interests of the children, a theatre visit or a beloved book – for example 'Our Neighbourhood' or 'Bears' or 'The Gruffalo' .

Cultural events are also embraced to deepen our children's learning, like Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and of course Mother's Day, Christmas and Easter.

All our activities are designed to foster the development of the children holistically across the 7 areas of learning in the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage. There are 3 'prime' areas , and 4 'specific' areas of learning. These are:-

Prime Curriculum areas:-

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Specific Curriculum areas:-

Mathematics

Understanding The World

Literacy

Expressive Arts and Design



Ofsted said - “Children participate in imaginative and highly stimulating activities where they are encouraged to explore and investigate. All staff have high expectations of practice and what children can achieve. Babies are extremely active learners. They learn how to crawl and walk in the spacious environment.”

I would like to now give you a quick insight into some of the activities that went on under the various curriculum headings.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

At The Village Montessori Nursery School we have Personal, Social and Emotional Development as our highest priority.

Of course, not all children behave as well as we would like all the time. In this event our children are treated to liberal doses of what we like to call ‘loving discipline’ – firm but fair with lashings of love thrown in!



Ofsted said “Children’s behaviour is exemplary. They delight in the friendships they make with their peers and quickly learn to share resources. Children play with high levels of excitement, vigour and energy and eagerly participate in the superb physical activities.”

Loving, caring relationships are built between children of all ages similar to sibling relationships within a family. This allows emotions to deepen, trust to be established, feelings to be managed and self-confidence to grow.

Ofsted 2012 said - “Secure bonds are seen throughout the nursery as a result of the inspirational interactions between adults and children.

Communication and Language

Research has shown that children need to be really effective talkers so they can become really effective readers once they get to school. So most of our day is spent merely talking to children about anything and everything – extending their language all the time.

Ofsted said - “Children have exceptional speaking and listening skills. Practitioners continually model attentive listening when they are with the children. They provide children with ideal chances to share their thoughts and ideas. Children develop an appreciation for books as they turn the pages and look at the pictures. Staff effectively support the children’s learning by talking about the pictures.”

Ofsted 2012 said - “Staff promote all areas of children's learning exceedingly well, with a particularly strong focus on the programme for personal social and emotional development and communication and language”.

Physical Development

We always have a stimulating assortment of activities to further the physical development of the children.

For example:-

- ✧ Glueing, painting, drawing, colouring etc.
- ✧ Climbing, running, hopping, dancing, sometimes to music, sometimes not.
- ✧ Using papier maché, clay, playdough, salt dough.
- ✧ Cutting, threading, slicing, spreading, grating and pouring.
- ✧ Mixing, kneading, rolling out and cutting out.
- ✧ Using scissors in a variety of ways.



Ofsted said “Babies develop super balance and coordination as they learn how to climb the steps up to the slide and older children use the outdoor resources, such as the balancing stumps.”

Mathematics

We believe that good, unforced, mathematical activities grounded firmly in reality give children the best start they can have for their future understanding.

Activities such as

- ✧ Comparing the sizes of all sorts of pots – discussing how many scoops of peat or sand might be needed to fill each one and so on.....
- ✧ Baking various sizes of biscuits.
- ✧ Making little books about a garden centre which had 6 Christmas trees that were bought, one by one, until there were none left for the shop assistant!
- ✧ Sorting pictures of flowers into their different colours.
- ✧ Planned counting activities like counting bears and numeral recognition.



Again these sorts of activities were well looked on by Ofsted:-

“Children are making very rapid progress in developing their mathematical skills in planned activities, free play and the nursery’s daily routines.

For example, they share trains and wagons fairly, they count the number of children at lunchtimes and realise there is one plate too many, they help prepare enough salad for all the children. Older children use practical calculation skills very well, responding enthusiastically to very high levels of challenge.”



Understanding the World

We consider that the children should learn as much as they can about the world in which we live.

- ✧ Discussing what sort of environment animals may live in naturally.
- ✧ Asking parents who have new babies to come into nursery to show the children how tiny babies need to be looked after
- ✧ Going out on little walks, observing the seasons as they change



Ofsted 2012 said “Children are very observant and show high levels of curiosity about the world around them and the experiences of their senses....

They explore and enjoy the natural world, aware of the changing seasons, in their garden and on outings in their local community. Children are confident about using modern technology, such as controlling the computer and mouse, selecting programs and adjusting speakers as they wish. Children are able to develop an exceptional understanding and appreciation of their own country and other cultures and beliefs as a result of the exciting and innovative learning initiatives planned and delivered by all the staff.”



Literacy

Our children love to read and write – little ones are often seen looking at a book just because they feel like it, and older children are often to be seen 'reading' to a younger child, or indeed to a group! Staff are extremely accomplished story readers and tellers so that story time is a time beloved by all. Older children love to tell stories that are written down by adults and illustrated by the children themselves.



Expressive Arts and Design

We at The Village Montessori Nursery School believe children are naturally creative and those whose creativity has really been allowed to develop in the Early Years are much more able to assimilate formal learning when they get to school. International research would seem to support this view.



Our Ofsted Inspector said:- “The children express themselves well in drama, imaginative play and in creative activities, talking about their pictures and what they represent, such as under the sea, and they have pride in their achievements.

They respond to rhythm, enjoy making and listening to music and enjoy singing and rhymes, joining in with expression and pleasure.”

Here at The Village Montessori Nursery School, we are lucky to have a wonderful staff team, and I am sure you would like to know a little about us.

To begin with let me introduce myself. My name is Diana. I am the mother of 4 grown-up children, and the grandmother of 7. I am a qualified teacher with a level 7 qualification, hold a diploma in Montessori education, and was one of the first 1000 practitioners in the whole country to gain the new 'Early Years Professional Status'. I lead the staff team and have overall responsibility for curriculum planning. I am now 68 and have over 38 years' experience of working with small children. I am still very passionate about my work and regularly attend conferences to gather all the latest ideas and research that might make our practice within the nursery even more stimulating or relevant than it is now.

Carol is our deputy officer-in-charge. She is qualified at NVQ Level 3 and has over 30 years' experience behind her. She is the mother of 2 sons and the grandmother of 3. She has been with us since we opened in 1994.

Lyndsey is qualified at NVQ level 3 and has been with us for over 19 years. The children love her quiet unassuming manner and she is an excellent role model for them. She works tirelessly with the older children, preparing them for the big step of leaving us to go to school.

Leanne joined us over 17 years ago, from school, and completed all her qualifications with us. She has now also joined the rank of the elite by gaining her Early Years Professional Status. She is a very valued member of staff, equally good with all ages from babies to pre-school children.

Lesley is the mother of two grown-up sons, and a grandmother of 2 girls. She has been with us over 12 years now, after changing career. She is qualified at NVQ Level 3. All the children love Lesley for her nurturing personality, and she is especially good with our babies.

Deborah has been with us 11 years now and is qualified at Level 3. She has an Early Years Degree and has also completed the Early Years Professional Status. She now has a son and is wonderful at creating lovely activities with babies.

Lyndsay has been with us over 10 years now and is qualified at NVQ Level 3. She has 2 sons and is great fun to be with, and all the children think of her as a friend.

Lisa joined us over 8 years ago after having been on a student placement with us while she was completing her Level 3 qualification. She has a grown-up daughter and endless patience and understanding with the children.

Jill is our most recent addition to the staff team, but she has been with us over 5 years now. She is qualified at level 3 as well, and is kind, patient and very nurturing, especially to the younger children.

Olivia is our Apprentice, and we are proud to be instrumental in her development.

All staff hold a full paediatric first aid certificate, child protection certificate and food hygiene certificate, as well as this we regularly attend training courses to keep us up to date with current research.

Ofsted said the following about our staff team -

“Staff are remarkably warm and caring which promotes children's confidence and sense of belonging. The key person system is highly effective in supporting individual needs because staff take time to get to know all the children exceptionally well. Secure bonds are seen throughout the nursery due to the excellent interactions between adults and children”

Quality Assurance

As you will have read already, quality in both the care and education we offer our children is always uppermost in our minds, and we are the proud holder of:

- The Gateshead Quality Assurance Kitemark
- The Gateshead Healthy Foundation Award
- The Gateshead Healthy Teeth Award
- Food Hygiene Rating 4

Now those are the interesting things about our Nursery School, but you will still need to read on to find the more mundane but nevertheless vitally important facts:-

Opening Times:-

For full day care:-

Nursery opens at 7.45am.

Nursery closes at 5.45pm.

For sessional care:-

Mornings:- Between 7.45am and 12.45pm (lunch is at 12pm)

Afternoons:- Between 12.45 pm and 5.45pm

Fees:-

- ✧ Morning session from 7.45 - 12.45 - £28 including mid-morning snack and lunch.
- ✧ Afternoon session from 12.45 - 5.45 - £28 including afternoon snack and tea.
- ✧ Full day from 7.45 – 5.45 - £50 including all meals and snacks.
- ✧ Full time care is offered at £875 a month.

Nursery Education Entitlement for children over 3:

This entitlement comes into effect from the beginning of the school term after the child reaches the age of three, and is for 15 hours of free nursery education, school term time only. We stretch this offer over the 49 weeks we are open, meaning that the child receives 11 hours free a week, and charge £6.00 per hour for any hours over the 11.

In addition, many parents qualify for 30 of free nursery education during school term time. We can stretch this offer as well, meaning that a child would receive 22 hours free a week, charging £6.00 per hour for any extra hours needed. Meals are also charged for separately.

Nursery Education Entitlement for children over 2:

Some children become entitled to 15 hours of free nursery education, school term times only, from the term after they reach 2.

Meals are also charged for separately.

For further information on eligibility contact the Family Information Service on 0191 4335118

Payment of fees:-

Fees are calculated individually, and are payable monthly, in advance, on the first of the month, by standing order.

Holidays:-

The Nursery is open all year except for:-

Bank holidays

The week between Christmas and New Year

The last two weeks of the schools' 6 week summer holiday.

Fees are still payable for these times, and no reduction of fees is made for family holidays taken at other times of the year.

Help with Childcare costs

Tax free child care

Within certain salary bands, parents can receive £2 from the Government for every £8 you pay in childcare costs, so this is a really good saving. See the Childcare Choices website for more details.

Other childcare vouchers

Many employers offer childcare vouchers to their staff as part of their salary. This can save you on income tax and national insurance contributions as the vouchers are deducted on gross salary. We do accept childcare vouchers either in part or full payment of nursery fees, but ask to make sure we are registered with your employer's voucher provider.

Universal Credit

Parents in receipt of Universal Credit may get help with childcare costs – we suggest you contact them as soon as possible, as it can be a lengthy process. You will need to know that our Registering Authority is 'Ofsted' and our Registered number is EY441567.

We hope you enjoyed hearing a little about us and we do hope you will call in and see us in the near future.