

Welcome to Little Oaks Montessori Nurseries

Little Oaks Montessori Nurseries are situated in the beautiful grounds of the Walker Cricket Club and on the borders of Goffs Oak and West Cheshunt in St James' Hall (Hammondstreet Road). We provide Montessori childcare for children aged 2-5 years old. Our bright classrooms ensure children are stimulated, safe and motivated giving them the opportunity to socialise, learn and play. We encourage children to develop their own personalities by giving them the freedom to explore their own interests, introduce new challenges and develop the curiosities that are naturally part of each child.

It is believed that children absorb more information and knowledge between the ages of birth to 5 years old, than at any other age in their lives. This is why at Little Oaks we offer individual planning that is tailored to each child's unique learning journey. We not only prepare children for School but for the future too.

The Curriculum

The Montessori Approach

At Little Oaks we follow the Montessori method of teaching. It was founded by an Italian Doctor called Maria Montessori who introduced her theories around the world. She designed and created her own unique learning apparatus which are known in the classroom as Montessori materials. The materials contain an in-built factor which allows children to discover and correct their own mistakes.

In a Montessori classroom children are encouraged to develop confidence, independence, concentration, a sense of order and to learn freely at their own pace. The organisation of the classroom allows children easy access to a variety of learning experiences. The room is specifically organised to appear attractive, orderly and inviting to children. All equipment is displayed on 'child sized' shelves giving children easy accessibility to select their own activities.

Montessori Curriculum

At Little Oaks we offer a wide and interesting curriculum. As a Montessori Nursery our curriculum is based around the five Montessori areas:

1. Practical Life - Practical Life exercises are the starting point in a Montessori Nursery. Children will be given the opportunity to learn practical tasks. We feel it is important to provide familiar activities which give a link with home, the sole aim of the exercises are to assist development. Practical Life is divided into six categories: Introductory Skills, Care of the Person, Care of the Environment, Grace and Courtesy, Development of fine Motor Skills and Development of Gross Motor Skills.

2. Sensorial - On our Sensorial shelves there are specially designed materials to encourage development of the senses. Each of these are used to stimulate and refine the senses and each will be presented to the child to be used in an exact way to aid their development. Sensorial materials are not only for the purpose of sense areas, but also for the child's mathematical mind, language development and pre-writing skills.

3. Language - During the first two years of school experience, the children are exposed to many materials and activities, which promote the development of language and literacy skills. Alphabet sounds are taught phonetically to the children using the sandpaper letters, this provides a foundation for pre-reading activities such as word building.

4. Mathematics - Mathematical Development including later numeracy depends on becoming confident and competent in learning and using key skills. This area of learning includes counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns and working with numbers, shapes and measurements. Mathematical understanding is developed through stories, songs and games and imaginative play so that children enjoy using and experimenting with numbers.

5. Cultural Studies - We introduce the children to Montessori globes, maps and flags. These convey the idea that he or she lives in a wide and wonderful world. Simple science experiments are carried out such as Floating and Sinking, Sound, Magnetism, Space and Gravity, Life Cycle and Mirrors and Reflection. Our objectives are to stimulate the child's interest and to get him or her to ask questions like Why? When? and How?

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In addition to the Montessori curriculum we follow the EYFS curriculum incorporating seven areas of learning:

Prime Areas:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Communication and Language
3. Physical Development

Specific Areas:

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design

General Information

Visits

We recommend that all prospective parents arrange to visit our setting before making the important decision of enrolling. During your visit you will be given a tour of the classroom, a chance to ask any questions you may have and an opportunity to meet the teaching staff.

Staff Ratio

The teacher to child ratio's we follow are:

3-5 Year olds - One adult to 8 Children.

2-3 Year Olds - One adult to 4 Children.

Reports

A full report of your child's achievements and progress is issued to parents at the end of the Summer term and EYFS age band assessments at the end of each term.

Parent Meetings

We have two parent meetings per academic year. They occur at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms. Parents are able to book appointments to see their child's key worker giving you an opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

Children's Journals

We use Tapestry online journals to record observations of our children. Each child's journal is unique, it takes a personal path based on their individual interests and experiences, telling a story of their time at Little Oaks Montessori Nursery.

Parent Participation

If any parents have a particular skill or interest that they would like to share with the Nursery such as cooking, storytelling, dancing, sports or art please let us know. Alternatively if you can help support and participate in our termly theme you would be more than welcome. Parents are also able to contribute comments and observations to their child's tapestry journal.

Snacks

Snacks are available during both the morning and afternoon sessions and all children are asked to contribute one piece of fruit per session attended.

Lunch Club

We offer a lunch club everyday that operates from 12:00noon-12:30pm. Parents wishing their child to stay for lunch will need to provide a packed lunch. There is an additional cost for this option.

Collection of Children

Little Oaks operate a password system when someone other than the intended person arrives to collect your child. If this person is unknown to us they will be asked for your child's password. Your child will not be released from our care unless the correct password is given.

Passwords can be changed at a parents request as often as they feel it is needed to keep it secret. We also ask parents to notify us by telephone or when they drop off in the morning giving us the name of the person they are authorising to collect their child at the end of the session.

Policies and Procedures

All policies and procedures are made available to parents on admission to the nursery in a folder kept in the lobby area, which can be referred to at your own leisure. When policies are updated parents are notified via the nursery newsletter.

Settling in

At Little Oaks it is of paramount importance that all children in the Nursery should be treated with great care and consideration. A new child should feel comfortable, cared for and integrated into life of the nursery as quickly as possible. Children can not play or learn successfully if they are anxious or unhappy. Our settling in procedure aims to help parents and children to feel comfortable in the nursery, and to ensure that children can benefit from what the group has to offer and feel confident that their parents will return at the end of the session.

Fee Structure

Enrolment Fee

To enrol your child to attend Little Oaks Montessori Nursery you will need to complete an enrolment form and send it to the address on the back. An enrolment fee is required. Upon receipt of your completed form, enrolment fee and deposit you will be sent a letter of confirmation and a starting date.

Deposit

A deposit is required to reserve your child's place. The deposit is refundable and is taken off of your last terms invoice when your child leaves Little Oaks.

Please Note: The deposit is only refunded providing that one terms notice of withdrawal is given in writing.

Sibling Discount

We offer a 10% sibling discount providing siblings are attending at the same time.

Payment of fees

Fees are due for payment on the first day of each term by bank transfer, account details are provided on your invoice. Monthly payments are due at the beginning of each month.

Nursery Funding Entitlement

The Government provides funding for all three and four year olds to contribute towards your nursery fees. Your child will qualify for this funding the term after they turn three and it stops when your child turns five. We can only offer a limited amount of children a free funded place and once the free spaces have been taken a small parent contribution will be required. The grant amount will be deducted from your invoice at the beginning of each term. We accept Two year old funding.

Book Bag

A free book bag is issued to your child when they start attending Little Oaks upon receipt of the enrolment fee. Replacement book bags are £6.00 each.