

Woodlodge Montessori School



Caring for your child and their future



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Our Promise

The pre-school years are an important time for both parents and children. During this time children will learn many of the skills they will need in order to cope with all that life has on offer for them. We will strive to create an inclusive, safe, secure environment in which the children have every opportunity to develop to their full potential. We aim to quench the thirst for knowledge that every child has and to develop in them a love of learning. We are committed to working closely with families to help these pre-school years be a rewarding experience. At Woodlodge each child is respected as an individual and treated equally irrespective of gender, race or culture.



Offering the best in child care...

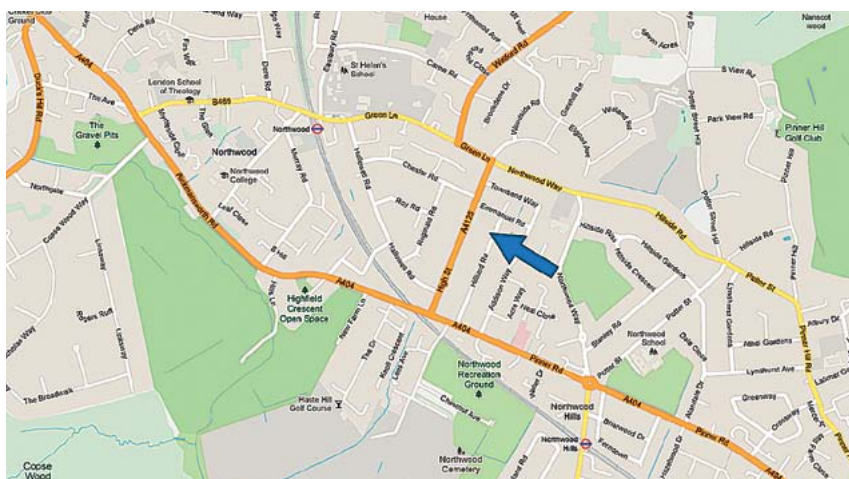
Woodlodge Montessori School was set up to meet the needs of individual families who require a combination of high quality childcare and a wide range of sessional times. We aim to provide a safe, warm and secure environment in which children can thrive and where parents can be confident that their children are safe and happy. We continue to provide high quality childcare using high staff ratios, and a Montessori environment which is fundamentally child centred. Children leave Woodlodge to attend many local private and state schools and take with them a love of learning, respect for others and their environment, as well as strong sense of educational and social independence.



To meet these needs we operate for 50 weeks of the year and we are open from 8am to 6pm. Children can start at Woodlodge when they are 2 years old and stay with us until they progress to Reception Class at 5 years old. We offer parents a choice of 4 sessions: Full Day Care (8am-6pm), Morning only (8am-1pm), Afternoons only (1pm-6pm) and a School Day (9am-3.30pm). These sessions are available from between 3 and 5 days a week.

Using a unique combination of a Montessori environment and an all day care facility we have devised a way to give the best of all worlds to parents and their children. A full day (8am - 6pm) at Woodlodge offers a Breakfast Club, the Montessori Day and an After School Club. With this arrangement we feel the children will gain the most from their time spent at Nursery.

Location



Woodlodge is situated in a purpose built building, in a quiet residential street and is secure within its own grounds in Northwood. The school is bright and cheerful and has its own garden fenced off at the rear of the building.

Why Montessori?

Dr Maria Montessori was a pioneer in the education of young children and founded the Montessori Method of teaching. She believed that children have sensitive periods for learning. These are times when the child will be sensitive to a certain type of knowledge and will learn effortlessly. The Montessori environment is carefully designed to respond to the child's needs at these stages and provides maximum opportunity for their development.

The Montessori teacher or 'directress' is an important part of the Montessori classroom. S/he is trained to observe and respond to the needs of individual children as well as the whole group. S/he is concerned with all the aspects of the child's development, social, emotional, intellectual, physical and creative. At all times, s/he treats the children in her care with respect, courtesy and a positive attitude.

The Montessori Work Cycle

This is a time when all the teachers allow the children to 'work' at various activities. These activities may be adult led or ones that children choose independently from the shelves. These include Montessori equipment and other carefully selected materials from a wide variety of sources. The teachers have a clear understanding of each child's stage of development so will be able to 'direct' the child to any particular activity s/he feels they need to achieve. This is a time when teachers will show children how to use the Montessori equipment, either on a 1-1 basis or in a group, according to the guidance given by the Montessori philosophy.



The outdoor area is seen as an extension of the classroom and by setting up activities outside, children are allowed to choose between inside and outside, weather permitting. At all times staff will be assessing and observing to ensure that all the children are involved in activities appropriate to their needs.

The Montessori classroom at Woodlodge is a complete learning environment. Children of similar ages develop at different rates therefore each child will need stimulation in different ways and at different times. Each child is treated as an individual while at the same time being part of the group.

Above all, the Montessori environment is a place that allows children to be happy, feel safe and be treated with respect, at the same time learning to respect others and fulfilling their social, physical, emotional, intellectual and creative needs.

Montessori works on the following principals:-

Stimulation

Children need to be stimulated in order to reach their full potential and the Montessori classroom is designed for that specific purpose.

Learning through the senses

Using all our senses to learn makes the learning experience more fun and also easier to absorb. The Montessori equipment allows the child to use his or her senses.



Freedom to learn

Each child is allowed controlled freedom within the classroom. They are free to choose materials to work with. By being allowed a choice the child becomes responsible and confident while at the same time learning with enthusiasm.

Independence

Independence helps in the formation of the child's character and personality. It gives the child confidence and self-esteem. These, in turn, create a happy and loving child.



Interest in learning

Children develop an interest for learning when they are provided with a positive and enthusiastic attitude towards gaining knowledge.



Self discipline

Through the freedom to choose and learn at his or her own pace the child acquires the ability of 'self discipline'.

Repetition

"Repetition is the key for learning." The Montessori environment allows the child to repeat activities and in this way removes any pressure or fear in grasping the concept of the activity.

A Typical Day At Woodlodge

This will vary according to which session you choose for your child. All times are approximate and may be subject to change.

8.00am - 9.00am

Children are greeted by the staff and welcomed into the nursery. The Montessori Work Cycle begins from the moment they enter the nursery as they are free to choose between activities on shelves, quiet time in the library, an opportunity to talk to friends and staff or have breakfast. Breakfast is on offer from 8.00am-8.45am. All children must arrive by 9.00am.

9.00am - 11.00am

During this time the children continue to follow the work cycle and also participate in specialist activities such as French, Ballet, Tennis or ICT. (Ask nursery for details). Snack is laid out between 8.45am and 10.30am.

11.00am - 11.30am

During this time the children are provided with an opportunity to become involved in small group discussions and outdoor activities.

11.30am - 12.30pm

Lunchtime. Here the children are encouraged to sit in small groups with their friends. This is a great time for social interaction. Teachers will eat their meals with the children to encourage table manners and to create a more relaxed atmosphere.

12.30pm - 1.00pm

The children will be given an opportunity to play outdoors or have a nap or quiet time. **At 1.00pm morning children will leave and the afternoon children will be greeted.**

1.00pm - 3.00pm

Montessori work cycle. Snack is laid out between 1.30pm and 3.00pm.

3.00pm - 3.30pm

The children are encouraged to become involved in small group discussion. School Day children leave.

3.30pm - 4.00pm

Outdoor or indoor activities. Prepare for Tea.

4.00pm - 5.00pm

Tea: Children sit at a table in small groups to eat a light snack/meal.

5.00pm - 6.00pm

Children can choose to relax and unwind by reading stories, being read to, playing games or choose other activities available to them.

6.00pm

Nursery Closes.

Outdoor Activities

The outdoor area is an extension of the classroom and whenever possible the children are encouraged to use the outside area freely. During the work cycle, weather permitting, the outside area will be set up with tables, chairs and mats so that the children can choose to be outside or inside. At other times the outside area is where the children can practise and develop ball skills, use the barked area with climbing frame and slide, ride the trikes and cars, act out role play scenarios, join in with games and socialise with their peers.



We have a garden area, which the children are encouraged to visit and help maintain. They are given an opportunity to plant seeds, and nurture them to observe their stages of development. We grow perennials, herbs and vegetables.

All outdoor activities are subject to weather conditions. In the event that the outdoor area cannot be used, the children will be provided with indoor physical games, activities, videos or stories. This is at the Senior's discretion.

Meals

Mealtimes are seen as a time for socialising and learning about food and good table manners. To give mealtimes a more realistic feel our staff eat with the children. We firmly believe that if children are given a well balanced diet that they will be able to get the best out of their day. With this in mind we have taken the advice of a nutritionalist when planning our menus. Our menus are varied and may contain dishes that you would not normally expect to find on a children's menu, however, we have found that children will often explore foods at nursery that they may not within their home environment.



Wherever possible, we use ingredients which are fresh, organic, low salt, low sugar and restricted in colourants. Our cakes and sauces are home-made. We may use fresh frozen vegetables when fresh vegetables are unattainable. All meals are prepared on site in our kitchen. We adhere to strict health and safety standards when preparing and serving food. We are a nut free zone. If your child has any particular dietary requirements we will be happy to discuss this with you.



Staff

As a Montessori school that provides full day care we benefit from the experience of staff with a variety of qualifications, from Montessori teachers to NVQ 3 in childcare. Our staff team consists of both qualified and unqualified staff who bring a range of experiences and diversity of people to the Nursery. We are very keen for all staff to undergo training of some sort. This may be a NVQ level qualification, training courses provided by Hillingdon Council, in house training, or Montessori seminars. We provide a very high staff to child ratio which enables us to maintain closer supervision of the children. We ensure that our staff are skilled in gaining the confidence of the children, treating them as individuals and with respect and being able to create a loving and caring environment.

Key Person System

The staff operate within a key person system where each child is given a key person who will take responsibility for planning and directing the child's learning. This person will also be the first port of call for any issues regarding the child. We have found this an effective way for monitoring every child's progress.

Curriculum Planning

We use the Foundation Stage Document and the Montessori curriculum, to ensure that our planning for your child is effective and achievable. Your child's Key Person will use targets from the Foundation Stage Document to create an Individual Learning Plan, which will map out his/her intended learning. We use the Montessori ethos and resources, and a wide variety of activities to achieve the Individual Learning Plan. We encourage the children to access all activities and equipment and where the need arises, the environment and activities within it are adapted to facilitate the inclusion of all. The Key Person will hold discussions with you and your child at various times during their time at Nursery to establish a more holistic view of your child. We produce a Progress Report at the end of each 'term' and hold Parent's Evenings as an opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

Outings

As part of the curriculum we offer several outings each year. These will usually be relevant to our topic or theme and help children to consolidate their learning with concrete experiences. Parents/carers form an integral part of the success of these outings.



Extra Curriculum Activities

We also provide specialist activities such as Tennis, ICT, French and Music & Movements. These activities help children in different areas such as from tennis, opportunities to grow in co-ordination, manipulation, movement and control skills.