Little Minds

Montessori

Pre-School

4 Freemantle Rd
Edenvale
Tel: 011 452 9753
Cell: 083 968 8596
robyn@littleminds.co.za
www.littleminds.co.za

Prospectus 2020

Little Minds Montessori is registered school member with

SAMA
South African Montessori Association
Member School

A little about Montessori

Maria Montessori was the first woman to graduate with a medical degree from the University of Rome, in Italy. Soon after graduating she was appointed assistant doctor at the psychiatric clinic in San Giovanni Hospital. While working closely with these children Maria developed a great interest for them and began to observe them. She worked confidently with them and gradually saw progress as they were responding to her teaching. Maria then realised that if children with defects and mental disabilities could show such a great response and improvement when working with the equipment and methods of teaching that she discovered, how effective it could be on children without difficulties.

In 1906 Maria opened her first school where she combined the stimulation of senses and education of movement as a system of her own. She observed the children in her school for a long time and came to the conclusion that children enjoyed working. She also noticed that the children repeated activities continuously until they had successfully completed it. Their concentration and interest in an activity was powerful.

Montessori's concepts:

- The teacher must pay attention to the child, rather than the child paying attention to the teacher.
- The child proceeds at his own pace in an environment, controlled to provide means for learning.
- Imaginative teaching materials are the heart of the process
- Each activity is self-correcting, thus enabling the child to proceed at his/ her own pace and notices his/her own mistakes as well as correct them.

Why Montessori

Children learn through using concrete materials, which are self-correcting. A Montessori preschool is a special place for children to work on building one's self and becoming an independent thinker.

Montessori work enables them to refine muscular control, build concentration and work towards becoming independent within the world around them.

The prepared environment contains materials and activities that stimulate the curiosity of the child, allowing them to learn and discover freely.

The materials accommodate children of their own age levels.

The children are able to choose their activities, which are guided by their own interests and sensitive periods.

The Montessori environment permits the child to share amongst his peers, as there is only one of each activity.

Montessori teaching is one on one. Each child is taught individually so the teachers know where the child s difficulties are and is able to assist the child.

A comparison between Montessori Method and the traditional method of learning.

Montessori	Traditional
1. Child centred	1. Teacher centred
2. Different ages	2. Same ages
3. Concrete to abstract	3. Mostly abstract
4. Correction of error in equipment	4. Teacher is correction of error
5. Importance of process	5. Importance of product
6. Materials have process	6. No process / hierarchy of materials
7. Child seen as an individual with his own needs, standards and problems	7. Child seen as member of group.
8. Class is smaller with personal attention	8. Large impersonal class with less attention
9. Child chooses his work	9. Teacher hands out work sheets
10. Child works at his own pace	10. Specific time limits
11. Moral development. Child learns problem solving skills	11. Unable to solve own problems
12. Directress is self-motivated	12. Teacher, forced syllabus-unmotivated
13. Child is listened to and helped	13. Discipline and detention orientated

School hours:

Little Minds Montessori's doors open at 7:00 am.
We start our Montessori workday at 8:30 am. Please ensure that you are not late.
We have 2 different time structures, which are as follows.
3:30 pm: Three-quarter day
5:15 pm: Full day

Our daily routine for our Toddler group:

7:00 am - 8:00 am:	School doors open and breakfast is served. (School Provide)
8:00 am – 8:30 am:	Non-compulsory extra murals / children not doing extra murals will have free play outside weather permitting
8:30 am – 8:45 am:	Morning Ring and music time.
8:45am – 9:00 am:	Art time.
9:00 am – 9:25 am:	Montessori work.
9:25 am – 9:30 am:	Toilet time and nappy changing time.
9:30 am – 9:45 am:	Snack time. (Parent Provide)
9:45 am – 10:45 am:	Supervised Play Time.
10:45 pm – 11:15 pm:	Sensory/Messy play.
11:15 pm – 11:25 pm:	Story Time.
11:25pm – 11:30pm:	Toilet time and nappy changing time.
11:30 pm:	Lunch time (School Provide)
11:50 pm:	Sleep time.
2:30 pm:	Snack time. (School Provide)
2:45 pm – 3:30pm:	Supervised playtime.
3:30 pm:	¾ day children go home.
3:45 pm:	Toilet time and afternoon snack. (School Provide)
4:00pm – 5:15pm:	Supervised playtime outside.
5:15pm:	School closes

Our daily routine for our 2-6 years old:

7:00 am - 8:00 am:	School doors open and breakfast is served. (School Provide)
8:00 am – 8:30 am:	Non-compulsory extra murals / children not doing extra murals will have free play outside weather permitting
8:30 am – 9:00 am:	Morning Ring and Theme Discussion.
9:00am – 10:30 am:	Montessori work time.
10:30 am - 10:40 am:	Toilet routine.
10:40 am - 11:00 am:	Snack time.
11:00 am - 11:30 am:	Supervised playtime outside
11:30 am – 12:00 am:	Fine motor activities. School readiness worksheets, numbers, letters, sums and reading
12:00 pm - 12:15 pm:	Story time, singing, musical instruments etc.
12:15 pm - 12:30 pm:	Toilet routine.
12:30 pm:	Lunch is served
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm:	Optional sleep time or supervised playtime outside.
3:30pm:	¾ day children go home.
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm:	Toilet routine.
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm:	Snack time for full day children.
4:00 pm - 5:15pm:	Supervised playtime outside.
5:15 pm:	School closes

Breakfast:

We provide the best healthy and nutritious breakfasts at Little Minds, even the parents ask if they can have a take away for the way to work.

Day of the week	Week 1	Week 2
Monday	Corn flakes with milk	Weet-bix with milk
Tuesday	French toast with cinnamon and honey	Scrambled egg and toast
Wednesday	Warm creamy jungle oats with honey	Warm Creamy meal. The best in Edenvale
Thursday	Egg, bacon and cheese muffins	Fruit and yoghurt
Friday	Bran muffins with either jam or cheese	Banana muffins fresh from the oven.

Snack time:

Parents are asked to provide a healthy 10:40 am snack and juice. No sweets or fizzy cool drinks are allowed. On Friday a treat may be put in their snack box.

Lunchtime:

Children are given a healthy lunch every day which has been developed and approved by a pediatric nutritionist. We include foods that expose children to different textures and are also delicious. All our meals are prepared on the premises by our Chef, Lettie.

Each child will receive pudding after their lunch which consists of either jelly, custard, fruit salad or ice cream. They also receive either water or some of our home made iced tea made with rooibos tea and fresh fruit juice.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Monday	Mini meatballs with spaghetti and a tomato based sauce.	Creamy mac and cheese served with sautéed mixed vegetables	Spaghetti bolognaise with corn
Tuesday	Chicken a la king & rice with butternut	Roast chicken with either couscous or rice and gravy with butternut.	Roast chicken wrap with cheese and crispy carrots.
Wednesday	Cottage pie and peas	Pork sausages & creamy mash with savoury gravy and corn.	Pap and wors with gravy and sautéed mixed vegetables.
Thursday	Homemade crumbed hake with hot chips and crunchy carrot sticks	Fluffy fish bites with baked sweet potato fries and cucumber sticks.	Tuna pasta bake with roasted butternut.
Friday	Hot dogs	Smiley face pizza	Homemade beef burgers

Afternoon snack:

Our full day children will receive an afternoon snack at 3:45. This snack consists of Fresh brown bread that will have a different filling each day, a fruit and either water or our delicious homemade Ice Tea..

What must you bring to school:

Each child should bring a small schoolbag containing a spare set of clothing in case of any accidents during the day. Please make sure these items of clothing are suitable for all types of weather as well as labeled.

If your child is not toilet trained yet, please ensure you send enough nappies, wet wipes and nappy cream in his/her bag.

Please bring a water bottle for us to fill up during the day.

Dropping off and collection of children:

The parking bays are limited so please ensure that when you drop your child off at school you do so quickly so there is no congestion. Please ensure that when you drop your child off at school they are handed to a member of staff personally. Please inform us if your child is going home with someone else, whether it is with another child or someone unknown to us. If we do not know about any change of plans, we will not allow your child to leave the premises.

Discipline:

Little Minds Montessori does not permit corporal punishment to any child. The Montessori method of discipline is to explain to the child what they have done wrong and have them sit on a "grow good" chair. Their age will help determine how long they have to sit on the chair EG: 2-year-old children will sit for 2 minutes. If any serious behaviour persists EG: biting, pinching, kicking etc the parents will be notified so we can resolve the problem together.

We believe that change is a big culprit in children's behavior. Change in either routine, diet or medication. If there has been any change please let us know so we can help your little one communicate how he is feeling to try and avoid them hurting other children or acting out.

Toilet training:

We do not expect your child to be toilet trained. We are happy to assist you with toilet training, when it becomes apparent that your child is ready to be toilet trained. Toilet training will not become Little Minds Montessori's responsibility; it will only be done in conjunction with the parents. Please do not rush toilet training, since it often takes far longer to toilet train a child that is not completely ready.

Sick children and medication:

Please keep your child at home if they are sick or show any of the following symptoms: diarrhoea, vomiting, conjunctivitis, spots or rashes, temperature and colds. This will prevent them from infecting any other child as well as the teachers.

If your child will not be attending school, please notify the school as soon as possible.

If your child becomes ill during the day, you will be notified immediately and asked to collect your little one as soon as possible.

The Health department has recently introduced a rule that no medication is allowed to be administered at schools; therefore, we will no longer be allowed to administer any antibiotics to your child.

In the event of an accident or illness requiring immediate medical treatment, Little Minds Montessori staff is responsible and reserves the right for obtaining medical attention and treatment for your child.

Events:

During the course of the year different functions will be held. These are good opportunities for parents to get to know one another and also for families to have a good day out.

Some of the events are:

Grandparent's day
Mother's Day Tea
Father's day Fun day
Sports day
Water day
Flower show
Christmas concert
Other events may come to mind and you will be notified.

Fun Fridays

On Fridays we like to do something special. These are some of the fun filled activities we will be having on Fridays:

Pajama day
Funky hair day
Hat day
Hot chocolate day
Teddy bears picnic
Movie/ Date Night
What I want to be when I grow up and many more…

These will not be held every Friday but we do like to have at least one or two every month. These days are always good for fundraising and great fun for both the children and the teachers.

Cake and Candy:

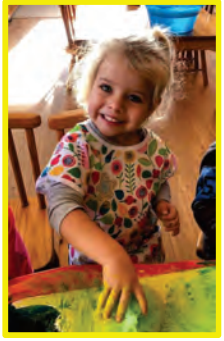
Every Friday we will have Cake and Candy. 1 parent will be asked to bring a treat for each child and the other children will each bring R5 so they can buy their treat.

Some ideas for treats:

Home Made Biscuits
Popcorn
Cupcakes
Dipped Marshmallows

Some parents also try and make something that coincides with our them of the week, for example if the theme is transport they make little cars or airplanes.

We like to encourage parents to take this opportunity to bake with your little one, the children enjoy so much when they sell something they have helped make.



Birthdays:

Parents are more than welcome to join us on your child's birthday while we do a special birthday ring. Parents may bring either cupcakes or a cake, but no party packs. Unfortunately, we cannot allow you to bring jumping castles or any other party entertainers as it just takes up too much of our morning and we won't be able to get any Montessori activities done with the children.

Extra Murals:

At Little Minds we have many extra murals for the children and parents to choose from and we have something for every type of child. Please note that extra murals are for the parents account except for Phyzz Ed which is included in your school fees.

Phyzz Ed is a wonderful extra mural whereby they concentrate on gross motor development whilst exposing children to all different types of sport e.g. netball, soccer, rugby, hockey just to name a few.

Our other extra murals that parents can choose from are listed below:

Rugga Kids
Big Five Golf
Wiggle and Jam music and Movement (Great for the toddler group)
Clamber club (Great for the toddler group)
Hip Hop
Ballet
Oh Crumbs cooking and arts and crafts
Swimming

We will send home applications forms for any extra murals that your child may be showing an interest in. Please note that extra murals are not compulsory.

Fee structure:

School fees for 2020 are as follows:
A non-refundable deposit of R1000 is payable as soon as possible to secure your child's spot.
Please note that Phyzz Ed is included in your school fees and this extra mural will take place once a week for half an hour.

Option A:

12 monthly payments. (January – December)
Payable by the 2nd day of each month.

Option B:

11 Monthly payments (January – November)
Payable by the 2nd day of each month

	Times	Option A (12 months)	Option B (11 months)
¾ Day	7:00 am – 3:30 pm	R3950.00	R4309.00
Full day	7:00 am - 5:15 pm	R4250.00	R4636.00

Option C:

One yearly payment.
Payable by the 7th January 2020

	Times	Fee
¾ day	7:00 am – 3:30 pm	R45 030.00
Full day	7:00 am -5:15 pm	R48 450.00

Equipment & Stationery Fee:

This is R1500 once off for the year and includes the following:
Hearing screening done in March
Eye screening done in May
Dentist visit done in July
Metal juice bottle labelled with a photo of your child
Hat labelled with your child's name
All your child's stationery EG: HB pencils, colouring in pencils, twistees, scissor, glue sticks, eraser, work file and work books. Each child will be given a pencil box to keep their items safe.
Please note that 50% of this is payable with January school fees and the remainder is payable with April school fees. If you would like to pay the full amount with your January school fees your are more than welcome to.

Family discount:

If you have 2 children attending Little Minds Montessori in 2020, you will receive a 5% discount on your total bill.
If you have 3 children attending Little Minds Montessori in 2020, you will receive a 7% discount on your total bill.

Termly items:

Parents are required to bring the following items each term: (please note that there are **3 terms**.)
1 liquid hand soap
2 boxes of tissues
2 packets of wet wipes for wiping faces (we do not use face clothes as it is unhygienic)
1 packet wet wipes if your child is not yet toilet trained (we will notify you once it is finished)
4 toilet rolls
1 new bottle of liquid sunscreen (we will notify you once it is finished)

Little Minds WhatsApp Group:

We know exactly how busy life can get and therefor have made it a bit easier by starting a Little Minds WhatsApp group for each class. We use it to send out reminders and occasionally cute photos if we are having an event at school. Please let us know if you would like to join this group.

School holidays:

Little Minds Montessori is an independent/ private school although our doors are open during the school holidays and during this time we like to keep the children in their routine and continue with our Montessori workday.

School will commence for everyone on Wednesday the 15 January 2020 and we will close on Friday the 4 December 2020 at 12:30pm.

School will be closed on the following days due to public holidays:

10 April 2020 – Good Friday
13 April 2020 – Family Day
27 April 2020 – Freedom Day
1 May 2020 – Labour Day
15 June 2020 – School Holiday
16 June 2020 - Youth Day
10 August 2020 – Public Holiday (Due to Women's day)
24 September 2020 – Heritage day
25 September 2020 – School holiday
Please note that these dates are subject to change.

Thank you for being part of our Little Minds family and we look forward to making this your child's home away from home.