

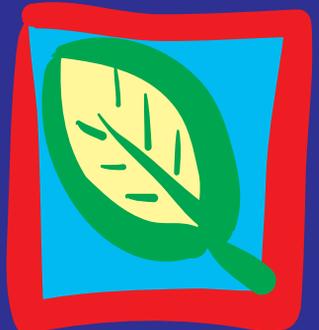
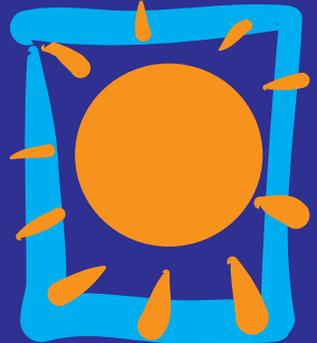
Great Beginnings

Montessori School

The Advent Centre, 39 Brendon Street, London W1H 5JE
Telephone 020 7258 1066

Prospectus

Head Teacher: Wendy Innes M.E.U.K. Registered School



Montessori and Great Beginnings

The Montessori classrooms here have been equipped with a full range of Montessori designed materials to provide a rich learning environment for your child. Each child is free to explore, discover and master a series of skills which will lay a foundation for life and their future schooling. Staff are always on hand to support and monitor each child's progress through individual and group work.

Important also is your child's social adjustment. For many children Great Beginnings will offer them their first experience in making friends and becoming one of a larger group. This is done in a caring and understanding way so that each child feels secure and settled as soon as possible.

Ages of Children 2 – 6 years inclusive.



Location

The school operates at 'The Advent Centre', 39 Brendon Street, London W1H 5JE. All visitors, 'early birds' and 'latecomers' should use this entrance, pressing 'banquet hall' bell. The main entrance for dropping off and collecting children is on Crawford Place as there is a 'buggy friendly' ramp for your convenience there (buggies can left at the school during the day).

Premises

One spacious 'banqueting hall' and two ample sized rooms have been colourfully furnished with child-sized tables and chairs. Suitably designed low shelving allows for every activity to have its own place, so encouraging each child to put one activity away before choosing the next. Kitchen, bathroom and cloakroom facilities are all close by.

Outings

With parents permission children are taken out on walks regularly and visit nearby parks to play. Field trips to places of interest such as museums and galleries are arranged throughout the year to broaden their educational experiences and develop language skills.

Telephone

During school hours 020 7258 1066

Terms

The school year is divided into three terms, each approximately twelve weeks long.

Autumn Term	September – December
Spring Term	January – March
Summer Term	April – July

Hours Monday – Friday

Older children	3 – 6 years 9am – 3.30pm
Younger children	2 – 3 years 9am – 12.00 mid-day
<i>(In-between option,</i>	<i>9 – 1.30pm)</i>

School opens at 8.45 am daily.

Children to be in by 9.15am for the register.

All children must be collected at mid-day, 1.30pm or 3.30pm.



Who was Dr. Montessori?

Born in Italy in 1870, Maria Montessori became the first woman to qualify as a doctor of medicine there. She subsequently devoted the rest of her life to the study of child development. Her remarkable discoveries have resulted in an educational approach that is now popular and highly successful worldwide.

Staff at Great Beginnings

Mrs. Wendy Innes is the founder and Head of the school. She received her Montessori teaching Diploma from the Association Montessori Internationale, and has taught this age group for many years, both abroad and in London. It is her policy to follow the progress of each class of children and that of each individual child.

Mrs. Innes' team of experienced teaching staff all hold the AMI Diploma in addition to further qualifications in related fields. All teachers are actively encouraged to further their knowledge and understanding of education by attending staff training days.

Staff/child ratios vary from 1:4 for two year olds up to 1:8 for older children.

Admissions Procedure

An initial visit is advised so that parents may see the Montessori classes in action. Also there may be a number of questions parents have about the school and how best to help their own child to settle in. The application form should then be completed and returned to the school together with the registration fee of £25.00 (*non-refundable*). The child may then be offered a place or put on the waiting list depending on age and availability of places.

School Policies and Parents' Handbook

The school has a 'Handbook of Policies' and a 'Parents' Handbook' which are updated regularly and are given to each parent when their child joins the school.



Procedure should any concern arise

Parents are advised to contact the Head of the school should they have any concerns regarding their child or the school. A meeting can be arranged, if necessary, to help resolve any concerns.

Conditions of Entry

Children are accepted upon receipt of application form and registration fee when a place becomes available. All places are offered on a 'first come, first serve' basis.

One full term's notice (12 weeks) in writing is required when you wish to withdraw your child or a term's fees will be charged in lieu.



Comments from Past Parents

'... we will remember all of you for your very great patience and understanding, as well as the ability you all display to treat each child as an individual. It hardly seems like two years since we brought you a very shy and nervous toddler. Today, I think you will agree, our daughter has a very well developed sense of her own worth.'

'... Thank you for providing a loving and caring environment which has stimulated and provided our son with the support and challenges to enable his character to grow and unfold in a loving and natural way.'

'... Thank you for all you have done for our child. You have assembled the finest staff and programme which is evident in the overall well-being of our daughter.'

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Further Information

Parents who would like further information or would like to visit the school please contact the Head, Wendy Innes at the school or telephone 020 7258 1066

