



meadows
montessori
nursery

Early Years Prospectus.



10.1 Early Years Prospectus

Meadows Montessori Day Nursery
Ross Close,
Saffron Walden
01799 513858
meadows.montessori3@gmail.com

Welcome to Meadows and thank you for registering your child with us.

We know how important your child is and aim to deliver the highest quality of care and education to help them to achieve their best.

This prospectus aims to provide you with an introduction to our routines, our approach to supporting your child's learning and development and how we aim to work together with you to best meet your child's individual needs.

Our setting aims to:

- provide high quality care and education for children up to the age of eight;
- work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop;
- add to the life and well-being of the local community; and
- offer children and their parents a service that promotes equality and values diversity.

Parents

You are regarded as members of our setting who have full participatory rights. These include a right to be:

- valued and respected;
- kept informed;
- consulted;
- involved; and
- included at all levels.

Children's development and learning

We aim to ensure that each child:

- is in a safe and stimulating environment;



- is given generous care and attention, because of our ratio of qualified staff to children.
- has the chance to join in with other children and adults to live, play, work and learn together;
- is helped to take forward her/his learning and development by being helped to build on what she/he already knows and can do;
- has a personal key person who makes sure each child makes satisfying progress;
- is in a setting that sees parents as partners in helping each child to learn and develop;

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Provision for the development and learning of children from birth to 5 years is guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage. Our provision reflects the four overarching principles of the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)* (Department for Education, 2021):

- ***A Unique Child***
Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- ***Positive Relationships***
Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- ***Enabling Environments***
Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.
- ***Learning and Development***
Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

How we provide for development and learning

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered by our setting helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The Areas of Development and Learning comprise of:

- ***Prime Areas***
 - Personal, social and emotional development.



- Physical development.
- Communication and language.

- *Specific Areas*
 - Literacy.
 - Mathematics.
 - Understanding the world.
 - Expressive arts and design.

For each area, the level of progress that children are expected to have attained by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is defined by the Early Learning Goals. These goals state what it is expected that children will know, and be able to do, by the end of the reception year of their education.

The *Early Years Outcomes* (Department for Education, 2023) guidance sets out the likely stages of progress a child makes along their progress towards the Early Learning Goals. Our setting has regard to these when we assess children and plan for their learning. Our programme supports children to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding they need for:

Personal, social and emotional development

- Self-regulation;
- Managing self;
- Building Relationships.

Physical development

- Gross Motor Skills;
- Fine Motor Skills

Literacy

- Comprehension;
- Word Reading;
- Writing.



Mathematics

- Number;
- Numerical Patterns.

Understanding the world

- Past and Present;
- People, Culture and Communities;
- The Natural World.

Expressive arts and design

- Creating with Materials;
- Being imaginative and Expressive.

Our approach to learning and development and assessment

Learning through play

Being active and playing supports young children's learning and development through doing and talking. This is how children learn to think about and understand the world around them. We use the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory guidance to plan and provide opportunities which will help children to make progress in all areas of learning. This programme is made up of a mixture of activities that children plan and organise for themselves and activities planned and led by practitioners.

Characteristics of effective learning

We understand that all children engage with other people and their environment through the characteristics of effective learning that are described in the Early Years Foundation Stage as:

- playing and exploring - engagement;
- active learning - motivation; and
- creating and thinking critically - thinking.

We aim to provide for the characteristics of effective learning by observing how a child is learning and being clear about what we can do and provide in order to support each child to remain an effective and motivated learner.



Assessment

We assess how young children are learning and developing by observing them frequently. We use information that we gain from observations, as well as from photographs or videos of the children, to document their progress and where this may be leading them. We believe that parents know their children best and we will ask you to contribute to assessment by sharing information about what your child likes to do at home and how you, as parents, are supporting development.

We make termly assessment summaries of children's achievement based on our on-going development records. These form part of children's records of achievement. We undertake these assessment summaries at regular intervals, as well as times of transition, such as when a child moves into a different group or when they go on to school.

The progress check at age two

The Early Years Foundation Stage requires that we supply parents and carers with a short-written summary of their child's development in the three prime areas of learning and development - personal, social and emotional development; physical development; and communication and language - when a child is aged between 24 - 36 months. Your child's key person is responsible for completing the check using information from on-going observational assessments carried out as part of our everyday practice, taking account of the views and contributions of parents and other professionals.

WOW Books

We keep a record of achievement (Wow Book) for each child. Your child's record of achievement helps us to celebrate together her/his achievements and to work together to provide what your child needs for her/his well-being and to make progress.

Working together for your child/children

We maintain the ratio of adults to children in the setting that is set by the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements. In order to:

- give time and attention to each child;
- talk with the children about their interests and activities;
- help children to experience and benefit from the activities we provide; and
- allow the children to explore and be adventurous in safety.



The Staff who work at our setting are:

Name	Job Title	Qualifications
Colette Loveday	Owner and Director	BA in Early Years and Early Years Teacher Status
Amanda Broomhead	Key Person & Deputy Head	NVQ Level 3 & Level 3 Forest School Leader
Samantha Law	Key Person	NVQ Level 3
Zoe Patmore	Key Person	NVQ Level 3
Jessica Dickinson	Key Person	NVQ Level 3
Jane Overson	Key Person	NVQ Level 2
Aimee Savill	Key Person	NVQ Level 3
Sophie McGeoch	Nursery Assistant	NVQ Level 2
Daisy Foster	Key Person	Training towards NVQ Level 3
Jenny Frewin	Key Person	NVQ Level 3

N.B. All staff have a valid Enhanced Certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service and are signed up to the DBS Update System so that checks can be carried out quarterly. On their suitability to work with children.

We are open for	50 weeks each year.
We are closed	For 2 weeks at Christmas
We are open for	5 days each week (M, T, W, Th & F)
The times we are open are	8:00am – 5.50pm
We provide care and education for young children between the ages of: 2 and 5 years	
We can provide holiday and before and after school care for children up to the age of eight.	



How Parents take part in the setting

Our setting recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their children. All of our staff see themselves as partners with parents in providing care and education for their children. There are many ways in which parents can take part in making our setting a welcoming and stimulating place for children and parents, such as:

- exchanging knowledge about their children's needs, activities, interests and progress with our staff;
- contributing to the progress check at age two;
- sharing their own special interests with the children;
- taking part in events and informal discussions about the activities and curriculum provided by the setting;
- joining in community activities, in which the setting takes part; and
- building friendships with other parents in the setting.

Joining in

Joining in is not the only means of taking part in the life of the setting. Parents can offer to take part in a session by sharing their own interests and skills with the children. Parents have visited the setting to discuss cultural festivals and demonstrated cooking classes.

We offer Pop in and Play sessions for parents to come into the setting and see their at work or to speak with the staff.

Key person and your child

Our setting uses a key person approach. This means that each member of staff has a group of children for whom she is particularly responsible. Your child's key person will be the person who works with you to make sure that the childcare that we provide is right for your child's particular needs and interests. When your child first starts at the setting, she will help your child to settle, and throughout your child's time at the setting she will help your child to benefit from our activities.



Learning opportunities for adults

As well as gaining childcare qualifications, our staff take part in further training in order to help them to keep up-to date with early years care and education. We also keep up-to-date with best practice, as a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and Early Years Alliance.

The setting's timetable and routines

Our setting believes that care and education are equally important in the experience which we offer children. The routines and activities that make up the day in our setting are provided in ways that:

- help each child to feel that she/he is a valued member of the setting;
- ensure the safety of each child;
- help children to gain from the social experience of being part of a group; and
- provide children with opportunities to learn and help them to value learning.

The session

We organise our sessions so that the children can choose from, and work at, a range of activities and, in doing so, build up their ability to select and work through a task to its completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small and large group activities, which introduce them to new experiences and help them to gain new skills, as well as helping them to learn to work with others. Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. The children have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities, as well as those provided in the indoor classrooms.

Snacks and meals

We make snacks and meals a social time at which children and adults eat together; snacks and meals are healthy and nutritious. Please ensure that you have told us about your child's dietary needs and so that we can plan accordingly.



Clothing

We provide protective aprons for the children when they play with messy activities. We encourage children to gain the skills that help them to be independent and look after themselves. These include taking themselves to the toilet, taking off and putting on outdoor clothes. Clothing that is easy for them to manage will help them to do this.

Policies

You will be emailed copies of our policies and procedures during the settling-in process, you will also receive notification of any changes to policies and procedures. They are available at all other times when requested.

Our policies help you to make sure that the service provided by our setting is a high quality one and that being a member of the setting is an enjoyable and beneficial experience for each child and her/his parents.

Safeguarding Children

Our setting has a duty under the law to help safeguard children against suspected or actual 'significant harm'. Our employment practices ensure children against the likelihood of abuse in our setting and we have a procedure for managing complaints or allegations against a member of staff.

Our way of working with children and their parents ensures that we are aware of any problems that may emerge and can offer support, including referral to appropriate agencies, when necessary, to help families in difficulty.

Our Safeguarding Officers are:	Colette Loveday & Amanda Broomhead
--------------------------------	------------------------------------

Special needs

To make sure that our provision meets the needs of each individual child, we take account of any special needs a child may have. We work to the requirements of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001).

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator is	Colette Loveday
---	-----------------



The Management of our Setting

The setting is owned and governed by	Colette Loveday
--------------------------------------	-----------------

Fees

The fees are payable monthly by the 11th day of the month. For your child to keep her/his place at our setting, you must pay the fees. We are in receipt of nursery education funding for two, three and four year olds; where funding is not received, then fees apply. If you are having problems paying the fees, please do not hesitate in getting in contact with the management where we will do our best to help you.

Starting at Setting

The first days

We want your child to feel happy and safe with us. To make sure that this is the case, our staff will work with you to decide on how to help your child to settle into the setting.

We hope that you and your child enjoy being members of our setting and that you both find taking part in our activities interesting and stimulating. Our staff are always ready and willing to talk with you about your ideas, views or questions.

Extra Curricula Activities

We offer Forest School sessions in the local woods (Hilly Bumps), Spanish lessons (Maria Allimenti – Kidslingo), Yoga sessions (Lorna Sullivan – Yoga Bears), Mindfulness sessions (Nikki Sweeney – Mini Mindfulness) and PE sessions (Mr Tyler Gilkes – Katherine Semar Staff).