

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION POLICY

At Creative Minds Nurseries Ltd we make birthdays a very special event for children. The child's own special day is a wonderful opportunity for building self-esteem and confidence and is also an opportunity to create an atmosphere of friendship, sharing and a sense of belonging. We hope it will be an occasion for everyone to remember.

## Montessori Birthday Celebration

The passage of time is an important concept for the children to understand. With each birthday, children start to have an understanding that they are growing older with every passing year. Maria Montessori introduced a beautiful ritual to help the children to understand the passage of time on their birthday.

The Montessori Celebration of Life is a lovely way to celebrate a child's birthday. In preparation for the Montessori Celebration of Life, the parents of the birthday child are asked to bring in a picture for each year of the child's life and write a short life story to accompany the pictures.

Children and teachers gather together in a circle for the Montessori Birthday Celebration. In the middle of the circle is the "sun". The birthday child takes a birthday walk around the sun holding the globe to represent planet Earth. While the birthday child walks around the sun, the teacher share the photos of the birthday child when he/she was born, when he/she was 1 year old and then 2 years old and so on and so forth. We talk about what the birthday child did when they were born and as they grew older.

This is followed by the traditional celebration of blowing candles and singing the Birthday Song.

## **Birthday** Cake

It is our policy that only freshly made cakes are to be provided for sharing with the children at the nursery for birthdays. The cake should NOT contain nuts, cream, chocolate filing or coating, jam or any kind of icing. We do not allow supermarket cakes with icing as they have very high sugar content and might contain traces of nuts. You are welcome to bake fresh plain or fresh fruit cake at home with none of the above ingredients. Please send the list of ingredients to the nursery manager if you have any doubts. Cakes are distributed at home time for parents to decide if they wish for their child to have cake.

You are welcome to bring fresh fruits / healthy snack to distribute amongst the nursery children instead of a cake.

We encourage to keep the celebration simple with NO exchange of gifts at the nursery.

## **Birthday Invites**

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Parents are welcome to ask for a list of your child's friends/peers from a teacher, to invite them for a birthday party organised outside the nursery. You may leave a paper invite at the nursery to be distributed or send an email to the nursery manager to be emailed to the respective parents.