



## OUR UNIQUE CURRICULUM AT CMN (Creative Minds Nurseries Ltd)

### Introduction

Our nursery follows a unique curriculum that seamlessly integrates the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework with Montessori principles. This blended approach ensures children receive a well-rounded education that fosters independence, creativity, and holistic development while meeting statutory EYFS requirements.

### Our Vision

Our vision is to create *GLOBAL CITIZENS* of the world who will respect the wisdom of all cultures, value all beliefs and tolerate all opinions. Our vision is to develop and foster a life-long love for learning to achieve freedom, world peace, and mutual respect.

We aim to nurture confident, self-motivated, and inquisitive learners by providing a prepared environment that encourages exploration, independence, and a love for lifelong learning.

### Core Principles

Our curriculum is underpinned by the following principles:

- The Unique Child - Recognising and respecting each child's individuality, interests, and learning pace.
- The Prepared Environment - A carefully designed indoor and outdoor learning areas that promote independence, choice, and hands-on learning.
- The Role of the Educator - Observing, guiding, and facilitating learning rather than directly instructing.
- Holistic Development - Supporting cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth through a child-led approach.

## **Integration of EYFS and Montessori**

The curriculum covers all seven EYFS areas of learning, enriched with Montessori materials and methods to enhance experiential learning.

### **1. Prime Areas**

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

- Encouraging independence and self-care through practical life activities.
- Promoting social skills via grace and courtesy lessons.
- Supporting emotional well-being through a respectful and calm environment.

#### **Communication and Language**

- Fostering rich spoken language through storytelling, conversations, and phonetic games.
- Using Montessori sandpaper letters and movable alphabets to enhance literacy development.
- Encouraging self-expression through songs, poetry, and drama.

#### **Physical Development**

- Refining fine motor skills through practical life activities (pouring, threading, buttoning, etc.).
- Developing gross motor skills via outdoor play and movement-based activities.
- Encouraging healthy choices through cooking activities and discussions on nutrition.

### **2. Specific Areas**

#### **Literacy**

- Phonemic awareness through Montessori phonics materials (sandpaper letters, moveable alphabet, object boxes).

- Introduction to reading through phonetic reading schemes tailored to individual progress.
- Writing development using Montessori metal insets and handwriting practice.

### **Mathematics**

- Hands-on learning with Montessori number rods, spindle boxes, golden bead materials, and hundred boards.
- Exploration of concepts such as quantity, sequencing, and place value through concrete materials.
- Encouraging problem-solving and logical thinking through practical applications.

### **Understanding the World**

- Cultural studies through Montessori globes, maps, and nature exploration.
- Practical science activities, such as planting, life cycles, and simple experiments.
- Learning about different cultures, traditions, and communities through real-life experiences and stories.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

- Creative expression through open-ended art activities and music exploration.
- Engagement with different media and materials to develop fine motor skills and artistic confidence.
- Role-playing and imaginative play to encourage storytelling and social collaboration.

### **Assessment and Progress Tracking**

- Ongoing observational assessments are conducted in line with the EYFS framework.

- Individualised next steps are planned based on children's interests and developmental needs.
- The Montessori three-period lesson approach is used to introduce, reinforce, and assess learning.
- EYFS statutory assessments are completed in alignment with Ofsted requirements.

### **Parental Involvement**

- Regular parent workshops and meetings to support home learning.
- Daily and weekly communication in person (Drop off and collection) and via app and termly progress reports.
- Opportunities for parents to participate in Montessori activities and celebrations.
- Stay and Play sessions for parents to join in

### **Conclusion**

Our curriculum ensures that children receive a rich and fulfilling early years education that lays a strong foundation for future learning. By blending EYFS with Montessori, we create a nurturing, child-led environment that fosters independence, curiosity, and a lifelong love for learning.