

🌟 CREATIVE MINDS NURSERIES PHONICS CURRICULUM 🌟

(Preschool Group)

At CMN we implement nationally recognised phonics programme, aligned with school readiness expectations. This is delivered by our phonic trained - preschool team; led by PGCE-qualified teacher. We blend the best of the Montessori method with the National Curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to create a fun, structured, and effective way for your child to learn to read.

✅ What is Phonics?

Phonics is how children learn to connect letters (graphemes) with sounds (phonemes). It helps them to:

- Recognise letters and the sounds they make
- Blend sounds together to read words (e.g. c-a-t = cat)
- Segment words to spell (e.g. dog = d-o-g)

🏠 Our Approach

- We follow a systematic synthetic phonics approach – just like in primary schools – so children are well-prepared for Reception and beyond.
- We also use Montessori materials to make phonics hands-on and enjoyable. This means your child learns at their own pace through play, exploration, and real-life objects.

👩 Led by preschool team with phonics training

Your child's phonics sessions are led by our preschool team who are trained by CMN's very own PGCE qualified lead; bringing both classroom experience and expert knowledge of how children learn to read. This ensures your child gets high-quality, evidence-based teaching from the start.

📅 What We Teach and When

Autumn Term – Youngest Group in preschool

- Listening and sound awareness - Sound games, musical instruments, rhyming stories, environmental sounds.

Spring Term – Middle aged Group in preschool

- Learning first letter sounds ‘s a t p i n’ and others – through sandpaper letters, matching games, object boxes.

Summer Term – Eldest Group in preschool

- Blending sounds and tricky words Reading simple words (cat, dog, ship), recognising tricky words (the, to), starting phonics reading books.

Montessori Magic

We use Montessori materials like:

- Sandpaper Letters – to trace and feel letter shapes
- Moveable Alphabet – to build words before writing
- Phonics Object Boxes – to link sounds with real objects and cards
- Montessori Pink series books

These help your child build confidence and enjoy learning at their own pace.

Reading at Nursery and Home

We introduce Montessori Pink Series books to children once they have mastered the foundational phonics skills—specifically, when they can:

Confidently:

- Recognise and name all 26 letters of the alphabet by sound (not just letter name)
- Blend 2–3 letter phonetic words (especially CVC words like cat, dog, mat)
- Understand that words are made up of individual sounds (phonemes) that can be blended together
- Segment simple CVC words to spell them out (e.g. hearing "dog" and spelling d-o-g)

We offer these books for home reading when children are ready for them.

Why It Matters

By the end of nursery, your child will:

- Recognise many letter sounds
- Begin to blend and read simple words
- Have strong listening and language skills
- Be well-prepared for Reception and the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Please note that each child is unique and develops at their own pace. The information provided serves as a general guide; however, individual children may progress differently based on their specific needs.