***IMPORTANCE OF EARLY YEARS : BIRTH TO THREE AND BEYOND***

*At the*

***Windsor Montessori House of Children***

*Montessori Early Years Education programme must support the child’s different stages of learning and development. A series of learning passages in an uninterrupted continuum. With this in mind Montessori classrooms need to be divided into multi-age classrooms. 0 to 3 years and 3 to 6 year. Each environment reflecting the natural learning characteristics of the child at different stages of their early years development.*

*A child between birth and 3 years rapidly acquires everything he/she needs to function in his/her later life.* ***Though this has a natural process of unfolding, the environment we provide plays a crucial and a significant aid to this natural process, in aiding, to build a solid foundation, for his/her next stage of development. 3 to 6 years.***

*From birth to 18 months, the infant programme must concentrate on the significant and the natural need* ***for movement.*** *There should be plenty of room to turn, sit, crawl, stand and finally to be able to walk. Movement brings your child in touch with the environment. By moving, touching, smelling and listening he /she begins to understand the world. Movements connects ,the child’s body and brain. The most important tool for learning. ‘Embodied cognition’.*

*Another important aspect at this stage of development is* ***communication****. Babies hear from the moment they are born, and they take in everything they hear. Therefore the best companion in a child’s life at this stage is the loving, caring, nurturing caregiver. The* ***parent*** *at home and the child’s* ***Key Person*** *at the nursery.*

*The* ***NIDO*** *the nest as we call is the prepared environment, in our nursery to support the infant with movement, communication and emotional development, through positive caring and nurturing interaction with the Key person.*

*From 18 months to 2.5 years, the child strives for* ***independence******“help me to do it for myself”.*** *Independence is the ability to do things for themselves, and think for them selves. This is an important aspect for their next stage of development.*

*Our toddler* ***Community room****, is arranged into different areas, which actively supports the toddler to participate in activities, with the support of a caring adult, with his* ***hand eye coordination, communication and independence.***

*From 2.5 years to 5 years. An environment designed to foster* ***independence, concentration, self motivation, self discipline*** ***and a love for learning.*** *This is the basis for life long learning.*

***Our Primary classroom downstairs*** *is the prepared Montessori environment to support the above age group to enable the child and guide him to fulfil his potential. The Montessori directress (teacher) guides each child according to his/her individual needs and development*

*Windsor Montessori House of Children, with the support of the Crown Estate was able to create these stimulating prepared environments, inside and out, in a beautiful spacious building, with beautiful surroundings in Old Windsor, to support your child in his/her life long learning.*

*Apart from the above, the children are cared for, and supported by qualified, experienced, mature staff, who has above all a love for children*

*The three prepared environments we provide in our nursery/school, are an* ***‘aid to life’*** *which supports babies, toddlers and young children in:*

* **Movement: “Help me to move by myself”**
* **Communication: “Help me to communicate with you”**
* **Independence: “Help me to do it by myself”**
* **Self-discipline: “Help me to be responsible for myself”**

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[*www.windsormontessorihouseofchildren.co.uk*](http://www.windsormontessorihouseofchildren.co.uk)