



Living Spring Guiding Principles

Living Spring Montessori is committed to ensuring the best care for all of our children. Our Montessori principles provide an aid for development and learning, in full compliance with the government's Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2014 guidance.

The Montessori Method concentrates on developing in our children a true love of learning and the ability to function not only independently but also as part of a group and the Early Years Foundation Stage principles beautifully complement the Montessori Method.

One of the main principles of the EYFS is the **Unique Child**; every child is a unique individual from birth, who is constantly learning and who can be capable, confident and self-assured. Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

Maria Montessori observed that children are naturally social; she believed that by following the children's interests and in helping them to become functionally independent, they will develop according to their individual needs and that they will exhibit great love and care for each other.

To support the unique child, there must be **Positive Relationships** between the children and the adults who care for them (parents, carers and extended family, as well as nursery staff members; in particular the key person). Positive relationships with adults form a secure base from which the child can explore and develop independent skills. Children develop in the context of relationships and the environment around them; this is unique to each family and reflects individual communities and cultures.

Maria Montessori believed the adult to be the dynamic link between the child and the environment; we acknowledge the important role played by parents and we work in partnership with them to support them in their very important job as their child's first teachers.

Enabling Environments affirms that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the child's development and learning in the early years, set out with activities to follow the child's interests. Maria Montessori believed that the classroom or what she called "the prepared environment" was to be set out in such a way that it allows the child to make his or her own independent choices. The child develops and grows from being engaged in constructive activities of his or her own choice.