

# Prospectus 2025-26

A photograph of several young children in a forest setting. They are wearing dark blue raincoats with bright yellow-green reflective safety stripes and black backpacks. The ground is covered in fallen autumn leaves. One child in the foreground is looking down, while another in the background has their arms raised in the air.

easa montessori  
+forest kindergarten

"The child is endowed with unknown powers, which can guide us to a radiant future. If what we really want is a new world, then education must take as its aim the development of these hidden possibilities."

Maria Montessori, *'The Absorbent Mind'*





## Our environment

Responding to the distinct characteristics of the child under three, we offer a Nido (nest) for babies from 6 months and a Casa (children's house) for children from around 3 to school starting age. Both are mixed-age groups to allow peer learning, empathy and kindness to grow. Carefully designed playrooms and our wonderful, natural garden present abundant opportunities for children to discover and create.

## A day at Casa...

Relaxed arrivals between 8 and 9am, with healthy breakfast choices as children arrive and settle in.

Uninterrupted play time (indoors/outdoors) from 9am until 12pm, including independently chosen snack time. Nido children have a group snack mid-morning. Young babies may have a short nap. Preschoolers may go to Forest Kindergarten on certain days.

Children participate in setting the table for lunch, serving themselves and clearing up as far as they are able. Guides eat with them and serve as role models.

Sleep, rest or quiet play for as long as children need to, either in the Quiet Room or the classroom, followed by afternoon indoor/outdoor playtime, group activities like music or dance/yoga, cooking, or outings. Children always have a choice of joining in or not. Preschoolers may be offered an outing such as a library trip or ArtBuds.

Children have tea together followed by outdoor play and calm activities until they go home.

## Why Montessori?

Dr Maria Montessori, physician and psychologist (1870-1952) promoted an educational method based on child development and scientific observation. Montessori environments are suited to children's stages, providing a wide ranging and evolving set of opportunities to appeal to their individual interests. As a pedagogy refined over a century it is a proven approach that accords with psychology and neuroscience over a century later. Today, there are more than 20,000 Montessori schools around the world.



## What about parents?

You play a vital role in creating consistency and security for your child when your home and our classroom are in alignment. This is a process we are here to support you with. All new parents are invited to a free introductory seminars, parent newsletters, and the Family app where you can keep track of what your child is enjoying at nursery and upload your observations of your child at home.





## Our Guides

Guides form a trusting bond with your child as a basis for all their learning and our communication with you. All our guides are either Montessori-trained or in-training and come from a wide range of professional and cultural backgrounds. The principals spend time in each classroom and lead professional development. Our practice is backed by membership in the Montessori Society AMI and the NDNA. We also offer professional learning for trainees.

## A green setting

Casa is a three-storey period townhouse and large enclosed garden with mature trees, covered areas and natural elements to encourage risky play and creative fun.

Our Montessori ethos emphasises learning about the natural world and the universe, other cultures and places around the planet and preparing children to be world citizens. Embedded in this curriculum is our sustainable practice including growing food, composting, looking after animals, re-using, repurposing and learning how to recycle materials and conserve resources such as water and energy. Our forest schools approach to outdoor education raises children's confidence and reinforces their scientific learning about the planet.

We encourage parents to use walk or cycle, use eco-friendly nappies, reduce plastic waste by using a waterproof kit bag instead of disposable bags, and to support your child's learning about sustainability at home.

## Who we are

Casa was founded by Sorour Malaekheh and Ro Foster, both Montessori educators. Since 2015 we have supported Montessori parents in Edinburgh through our parent and child classroom, workshops and seminars.

We are motivated first and foremost by the promise of a bright future that is carried within each child and thus have high expectations of ourselves as early childhood professionals; as well as of parents, who are the child's first educators. Our team is composed of educators who share in our ethos and bring a diverse set of skills and capacities to our setting. We enjoy working with local partners to provide diverse opportunities for children.

We are very grateful to have the support of families in the community who appreciate our work and ethos.

## Our healthy menu

We believe children should know how food gets to their plate. Through the practical activities of everyday living, such as weeding, planting, watering, then peeling, cutting, and cooking, children participate in growing food. They are encouraged to prepare and serve their own fruit and cereal snacks, according to their age. Our sustainable, vegetarian and vegan catered menu ensures they eat healthy and varied meals.







Potential, present and future.



Your child is born with innate potential, and the first few years are the time to unlock it. Our Montessori ethos means we meet your child in the present - where they are as an individual in this moment - seeding their interests and enabling their present potential to drive their learning. Over time, our gentle approach will nurture their enthusiasm, powers of observation, senses, mental order and love of learning into future potential - giving them tools and skills for success in school and in life.



Find Casa:

75 Viewforth, Edinburgh EH10 4LL  
[www.casamontessorinursery.com](http://www.casamontessorinursery.com)  
0131 466 4413

There is ample cycle and pram storage and families are encouraged to walk, cycle or take advantage of the excellent transport links to the area. Please note that there is no parent parking at the nursery.

## How to apply

1. Fill in the online form for your child's age group.
2. We will ask you to update your application twice a year by sending you an email on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb and 1<sup>st</sup> Aug.
3. An enrolment processing fee will be due once per family before we process your application.
4. When we identify a possible place, we will offer you a tour or a visit of the nursery.
5. After the tour, please let us know within 7 days if you wish to proceed. We will also assess whether we can meet your child's care and learning needs.
6. We will send you information about availability and, when agreed, an Offer which you have six weeks to accept.
7. Enrolment is complete when the signed contract is returned and the deposit is paid.

application, provide to us such information as we may reasonably require about the child, eg. any known medical condition, health problem, allergy, or diagnosed dietary requirement; any prescribed medication; any lack of any vaccination which the child would have ordinarily have by their age; any family circumstances or court orders affecting the child; any concerns about the child's safety or development; or any other information that would reasonably be considered important for a day care of children setting to know. If it becomes apparent to us that such information has been omitted, withheld or misrepresented, your Offer/ Parent Contract will be void.

Fees include all food, drink and baby wipes but not formula milk nor nappies. See Fee Sheet for current charges and ELC funding terms.

The minimum booking is two full days per week for under-3s and 2.4 days for 3-6 year olds. The nursery is open 50 weeks per year with fees divided equally over 12 months and payable monthly. Funded Early Learning and Childcare is available for eligible children subject to separate terms and conditions. Your Parent Contract is not contingent on the funded ELC.

A deposit, equivalent to two months' non-funded fees, is required upon acceptance of a place. Two months' notice of withdrawal is required, whether before or after the child's start date as indicated on the contract. A portion of the deposit is returned when your child begins receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare, with the rest returned at the end of the withdrawal notice period or when the child moves on to school. If, once Enrolled, you wish to Amend (defer) your child's start date by more than 2 months, we will not be able to hold their place and will treat it as a withdrawal.

We accept payments through Tax Free Child Care. When pre-arranging your fees through the government portal, please leave sufficient time to allow for delays with the system. Late charges apply to monthly fees paid after the start of the month.

Full details of nursery procedures and important information are supplied in the Parent Handbook along with your Offer. The Parent Handbook shall form part of your agreement with us. We may change these terms and conditions where such a change arises from changes in regulations or legislation affecting us. We may materially change any other terms in these terms and conditions with written notice.

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## Terms and Conditions of Enrolment

Under-3s places are offered a maximum of 12 months before the start date. Preschool places are usually offered a maximum of 6 months before the start date. Preschool applications will normally be processed within 6 weeks.

Siblings; children who have attended Montessori settings prior to Casa; and children of key workers have priority.

Processing is based on the requirements stated on your application or your waiting pool update form, whichever is more recent. If your requirements change after your application has been processed, we cannot guarantee that we can accommodate the changes.

A minimum immunisation rate of 95% is required for the safety of vulnerable individuals. We will fill spaces in a manner that maintains the immunisation rate.

Applying, paying the enrolment fee, and attending a tour or visit do not guarantee an offer will be made.

We are an inclusive setting and will, by law, accommodate the needs of children who have additional needs for which, after reasonable adjustments, we can cater adequately. When allocating places we will, to the extent possible, ensure that all the children's needs can be met and that any extra resources are in place to ensure their wellbeing. As a parent, you must, at the time of