

COLOURWOODS MONTESSORI KINDERHAUS

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Location

The Bilingual Montessori Kinderhaus is situated at the Hohfurren 20, 8126 Zumikon, next to the woods. It is centrally located and easily accessible by car and public transport.

Timings

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 08:30am – 15:00pm.

Wednesday 8:30 – 12:00pm (no lunch)

Circle time 9:00am. Please make sure your child is at the Kinderhaus not later than 9:00 am.

Lunch

Warm, fresh lunch is cooked for the children. The children help in the preparation of the Lunch. Eg: Setting the lunch table, preparing the dessert or salad, always supervised by a teacher. We do not serve pork meat.

Additional Lessons

Creative dance lessons with Mrs Gioia Piasko. The Children are divided in groups depending on their age group. Eg: 3-4 year olds together. 5-6 olds together. Forty five minutes per group. The class is taught in English and in German.

Weather permitting we go every afternoon in the nearby woods

Depending on the weather conditions, the children run-walk 1km from the beginning of the woods until the HH Zollikon where there is a beautiful open field. The woods provide a large range of nature experiences for the children.

Excursions

We take the children to visit museums. The Jucker farm. The Zurich Zoo and more. We organize this kindergarten excursions.

Montessori Philosophy

Dr Maria Montessori believed that children develop successfully when they are offered freedom to choose their activities within a structured environment. They should also be provided with hands-on experiences and allowed to work until their needs are satisfied.

The role of the Montessori Directress or classroom teacher is to nurture the development of the “whole child” and not focus on academics solely.

Children become independent and responsible for their actions and handling situations that arise in constructive ways.

The Montessori Classroom or “the Prepared Environment”

The multi-aged classroom has children in ages 3,4,5 and 6. It provides a positive educational experiences for the children.

Children are inspired by the work of others, multi-age classrooms allow children to develop at their own pace without feeling of being singled out. Also children develop a stronger bond with the teacher’s and classmates. Likewise, the teacher gets to truly know her students after spending 3 years with them.

The Materials in a Montessori Classroom

The materials in a Montessori Classroom are extremely important, they are designed to be self-correcting. The children knows immediately if the lesson was done well. This allows the child to work at his own pace with the material and discover and correct his errors without the teacher’s intervention.

Areas in a Montessori prepared Environment

Practical Life;

Is where the foundations are laid for further learning, by using these materials the young children develop concentration, coordination, independence and sense of order.

Sensorial Material; Introduces the children to abstract concepts through hands on materials. The children explores size, length, volume, colour, sound and taste.

Many activities come in groups of ten, which is an introduction to our 10th math system.

Math Material; Like the Language material maths material is introduced to sandpaper numbers. Once the numbers 1-10 have been mastered the child moves on to quantities of numbers, counting, addition, skip counting, multiplication and division.

Special Montessori concrete materials are used to teach all these abstract mathematical concepts.

Language Materials; The young child performs many readiness activities in preparation for reading, when the child is ready he is introduced to the sand paper letters. This gives the child a HAND-BRAIN coordination and connection to the concept. As the child traces the letters he hears the sound that the letter makes while feeling the configuration of the letter. This forms a firm connection within the child’s brain. Once the child master’s all the letters he moves on to work with the movable alphabet to make words and later on phrases and sentences. At this point the child is reading on his own.

Geography; The Child learns the continents and the countries within them. The people living in these countries, flags and customs.

Land and water forms eg,, peninsula, lake. The time, the calendar.

Science; Botany, we explore the woods everyday nice walks to explore its habitat, changes of the colours of leaves, weather, seasons.

The planets and the solar system, the time.

Art and Music; The child learns to express himself using different media.

The child discovers the joy of music.

This is truly joy of learning.

HELP ME BE MORE INDEPENDENT – HILF MIR SELBS ZU TUN

This is a Montessori Kinderhaus, where the children learn to be independent.

Please note; no shoes with laces, please! unless your child can lace them up by himself.

We go for long walks to the nearby woods, ALMOST EVERYDAY to explore and enjoy the wonders of nature so close to town. Therefore please make sure your child is not wearing his most expensive dress or trousers, also rubber boots are necessary in case its muddy.

Tics...please make sure your child has the proper vaccination against this little pain animals. Due to the mild winter in Zurich this year we will have lots of them out in the woods.

HOUSE SHOES very important, in Zurich they call them “finklis” Needed.

Extra change of clothes with the name written, in case of mishaps.

Parent – Teacher Relationship

Regular parent-teacher meetings written and verbal reports and classroom visits all created essential close ties between parents and the school. We encourage parents to assist in various activities, like: The Christmas celebration, Halloween, visits to museums, story reading, cooking once a year for the whole Kindergarten.

This involvement enables us to establish a cooperative and supportive relationship between the school and home.