The Early Years Foundation Stage in the Montessori Classroom

The first six years of life are of paramount importance in terms of learning. During this period, children show remarkable abilities to learn almost effortlessly as they virtually absorb information from their environment. In an atmosphere, which allows children to be children and doesn't push them into activities they are not developmentally ready for, children will preserve their natural desire for learning and be able to maximize their potentials, whatever they may be.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child’s life between birth and age 5. The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child, and was developed with a number of early years experts and parents. In September 2014 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop. It sets out: The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare. The 7 areas of learning and development which guide professionals’ engagement with your child’s play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge. Assessments that will tell you about your child’s progress through the EYFS; Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the “Early Learning Goals (ELGs)”

At Rose House Montessori we do not push children: we give each child time and many opportunities to learn how to do things without even realising that this is what they are doing. Such indirect preparation helps our children to achieve to their utmost potential in all areas of the curriculum when they are ready. Recognizing, sorting, and matching geometric shapes, for example, are all essential skills to sharpen the mathematical mind. If a child is practicing using tweezers, he is strengthening his writing fingers. Experience in Montessori schools all over the world shows, that it is not how early a child begins to write and read that is essential skills, without even realising, that this is what they are doing. Such indirect preparation helps our children to achieve to their utmost potential in all areas of the curriculum when they are ready. Recognizing, sorting, and matching geometric shapes, for example, are all essential skills to sharpen the mathematical mind. If a child is practicing using tweezers, he is strengthening his writing fingers.

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Children will learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. At Rose House Montessori, children:

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- are always treated with respect and kindness
- learn to do many things by themselves
- are supported through activities and aspects linked to the Montessori Curriculum of 'Practical Life'
- develop confidence and become independent
- have many opportunities to play alone or with other children
- learn how to become part of a group and make friends
- learn how to share and take turns
- gain an understanding of what is right and wrong
- learn how to take good care of themselves and others
- learn how to care for plants, animals and the environment
- grow up in an environment which encourages them to feel good about themselves

### Communication and Language
- have a language rich environment
- have many opportunities to enjoy stories, books, songs, rhymes and poems are listened to and learn how to listen to others
- are encouraged to talk and engage in many varieties of dialogue
- are encouraged to use a wide range of language to communicate thoughts, ideas and feelings
- are introduced to many new words
- are introduced to different languages (Spanish, German, French) through games and songs

### Physical Development
- have constant access to a safe indoor and outdoor environment
- develop their fine motor skills through pouring, transferring, threading, sewing, polishing, building and many more
- learn how to use tools like scissors, hole punch, screw driver and many more
- develop their gross motor skills through balancing, running, carrying, transporting, sweeping and many more
- learn how to use outdoor equipment such us hoops, balls and many more
- learn group games and have fun with their friends
- are introduced to yoga for children
- have constant access to water and fruit snacks, learning to understand what their body needs to stay healthy
- grow up in an environment which fosters joy of movement
These prime areas are those most essential for your child’s healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

### Mathematics

At Rose House Montessori, through access to activities and aspects linked to the Montessori curriculum of developing the senses and first stage numeracy, children

- find many activities to gain hands-on experiences of quantity and shape
- learn to sort, match and make patterns
- learn names of numbers and shapes
- learn to count and understand the connection between number and quantity
- are introduced to size and measuring

### Literacy

At Rose House Montessori, children

- have many opportunities to enjoy stories and books
- are encouraged to talk and are introduced to many new words
- learn the sounds of letters and may start to build words
- have many opportunities to use their hands and fingers for mark making
- develop an effective way to hold a pencil for writing
- start forming recognisable letters
- are introduced to different languages (Spanish, German, French) through games and songs

### Understanding the World

At Rose House Montessori through continued access to activities and aspects linked to the Montessori curriculum of developing the senses and embracing other cultures, children

- find many activities to develop their senses and to find out about materials
- have many opportunities to observe and investigate nature
- find ample opportunities to construct and design
- will gain an in-depth understanding of life on planet earth through hands-on activities about continents, elements, solar system, etc.
- learn about different cultures and beliefs through artifacts, stories, games, music, dressing up clothes and in role play scenarios
- take part in activities to care for the environment
- are introduced to a wide range of science activities
- learn about their local area through outings and visits from the Neighbourhood Police Team
- learn how to use information technology sensibly
- build a sense of connection to all human beings, and gain a sense of cosmic community

### Expressive Arts and Design

At Rose House, children

- have constant free access to arts and crafts materials for painting, gluing, sticking, printing and model making activities
- have the freedom to explore creative materials and are encouraged to find creative ways of expressing their ideas and feelings
- are introduced to a wide range of creative processes and materials
- are encouraged by teachers who understand that children's creativity is about process, not product
- are invited to take part in dance and movement sessions
- have constant access to rhythm instruments
- are introduced to different instruments and different styles of music
- learn a wide repertoire of traditional and new songs and nursery rhymes
- engage in imaginative role play scenarios

**Natural desire for learning**

Our teachers create a **safe, caring, orderly and beautiful classroom**, which presents a wide range of inviting and interesting activities for each child. Our classroom is carefully prepared to cater for the individual needs of all the children as they pass through their different stages of development.

Through a managed combination of "freedom of choice" and "sensitively directed learning", the children are helped to gain independence as well as learning to be part of the community. As she notices an interest arise in a child, the teacher will carefully guide the child towards activities, which will fulfill the child's natural desire for learning.

You can find more information about the Early Years Foundation Stage, which includes the early learning goals at [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk) and more information about Montessori at [www.montessori.org.uk](http://www.montessori.org.uk)