



Baby & Toddler

THE MOUNTAIN CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

2016

6 weeks – 3 year olds

The Power of Play

P.O. Box 36 Hartbeespoort 0216 • Beethoven Road Melodie Agricultural Holdings Hartbeespoort

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OUR VISION

Mountain Cambridge School is an independent school offering an internationally recognized quality education.

OUR MISSION

We want to equip our learners to be “*real world ready*”.

- Participating students will strive to leave Mountain Cambridge School as confident, effective, well mannered, articulate, educated and enthusiastic citizens of the world who will contribute positively to society.
- Mountain Cambridge School will provide a range of programs and facilities for intellectual, physical, moral and social development of our students, assisting them in becoming balanced young adults.
- Mountain Cambridge School will foster a safe, pleasant, intimate yet dynamic learning environment where every student will feel at home. It will be a school which the educators, students and parents will be proud to be part of and to be associated with. We strongly believe in a successful partnership between the school and the home.
- Mountain Cambridge School will give all our students an equal opportunity to realize their potential through individual goal setting that is obtainable and realistic. We will ensure that all students are challenged and supported.
- The Cambridge curriculum provides a wide range of academic and vocational subjects to account for differing abilities, making Cambridge suitable for all students.
- The Cambridge curriculum will enable our students to gain an internationally recognized qualification and to produce independent thinkers who are also autonomous learners.
- Our dedicated and passionate educators will ensure that the highest standard of education is provided.

OUR SCHOOL MOTTO

Our school motto, “*Real world ready*” is based upon 6 core values: hard work, honesty, respect, discipline, trust and enthusiasm.

These values serve as a compass pointing out what it means to be true to oneself. Honoring these values will guide our students in fulfilling their goals.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOUNTAIN CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL

Our students will state proudly that they went after their dreams, sought out and nourished robust, life giving relationships and fulfilled their purpose in their own unique way. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once said: "Too many people die with the music still in them." We encourage our students "to sing their own special song, dance their own special dance." Above all, Mountain Cambridge Baby and Toddler School is a happy place; a place where "every child matters". We will strive at MCS to ensure a happy child through:

- High standards & stated expectations
- Passionate, nurturing & inclusive school
- Small learning communities
- "Whole-brain"/creative teaching strategy
- Analytical & creative thinking : Edward De Bono Lateral thinking
- Positive Behavior Support
- Bully-free zone
- Disciplined but relaxed environment which is conducive to learning.
- Interactive playground
- Partnerships with our parents as our stakeholders
- On-going professional development
- Sport and culture development

AIM OF OUR Baby and Toddler PROGRAMME IS:

To provide the children with a nurturing and stimulating environment where through differentiation, play, joyous exploration and movement the children progressively develop

- A sense of self-worth and well-being.
- A secure sense of belonging enabling them to work spontaneously, independently and confidently.
- Appropriate socializing skills enabling them to engage assertively yet respectfully and politely in a positive manner.
- An awareness of right and wrong which has been internalized thus enabling them to make informed decisions about their behavior.
- Physically with the emphasis on gross motor, fine motor and perceptual skills as the foundation for effective reading and writing.
- Sensory skills which will enable a greater awareness of self within the bigger world.
- Creative, inquiring minds which will enable them to think reason and willingly explore, experiment and engage with new concepts.
- Free flowing language skills enabling the child to define, label, question, analyze, synthesize and compare experiences.

CURRICULUM

The Mountain Cambridge Baby and Toddler School have opted to incorporate these guidelines as part of an emergent curriculum in order to ensure that we capture the imagination and curiosity of the children within our care. This type of approach ensures that the materials we present to the children cover the required skills, remain relevant, appeal to the child's interest and can be adapted as required. This in turn ensures that the way we present information or ideas to the children remains dynamic, fresh and exciting and ensures their active participation.

The approach that will be incorporated into the Pre-Primary is the Reggio Emilia approach. In the Reggio Emilia approach children are viewed as curious, competent, ambitious, creative and capable individuals who ultimately are in control of their own learning. They therefore require a nurturing, dynamic, enriched and supportive environment, in which purposeful play takes place and where the children are reconnected with nature and encouraged to explore and discover.

It is the educator's role to nurture and guide the children, to listen to what they have to offer, include them in the decision making process and ultimately foster in the child, a love of nature and lifelong learning.

The *educational cornerstones* that our school's curriculum is based on are:

1. Academic
2. Personal Development Program
3. Culture & Sport
4. Environment & community

Academic: Real world ready Reggio Emilia Approach

The Reggio Emilia Approach is an innovative and inspiring approach to early childhood education.

It values the child as strong, capable and resilient; rich with wonder and knowledge. Every child brings with them deep curiosity and potential and this innate curiosity drives their interest to understand their world and their place within it.

Background

The Reggio Emilia Approach originated in the town (and surrounding areas) of Reggio Emilia in Italy out of a movement towards progressive and cooperative early childhood education. It is unique to Reggio Emilia,

Fundamental Principles

- Children are capable of constructing their own learning

They are driven by their interests to understand and know more. *Children form an understanding of themselves and their place in the world through their interactions with others.* There is a strong focus on social collaboration, working in groups, where each child is an equal participant, having their thoughts and questions valued. The adult is not the giver of knowledge. Children search out the knowledge through their own investigations.

- Children are communicators

Communication is a process, a way of discovering things, asking questions, using language as *play*. *Playing* with sounds and rhythm and rhyme; delighting in the process of communicating. Children are encouraged to use language to investigate and explore, to reflect on their experiences. They are listened to with respect, believing that their questions and observations are an opportunity to learn and search together. It is a process, a continual process. A collaborative process rather than the child asking a question and the adult offering the answers. The search is undertaken together.

- The environment is the third teacher

The environment is recognized for its potential to inspire children. An environment filled with natural light, order and beauty. Every material is considered for its purpose, every corner is ever-evolving to encourage children to delve deeper and deeper into their interests. The space encourages collaboration,

communication and exploration. The space respects children as capable by providing them with authentic materials & tools.

- The Teacher is a mentor and guide

Our role as teachers is to observe (our) children, listen to their questions and their stories, find what interests them and then provide them with opportunities to explore these interests further. Reggio Emilia takes a child-led project approach. The projects aren't planned in advanced, they emerge based on the child's interests.

- An emphasis on documenting children's thoughts

There is an emphasis on carefully displaying and documenting children's thoughts and progression of thinking; making their thoughts visible in many different ways: photographs, transcripts of children's thoughts and explanations, visual representations (drawings, sculptures etc.) all designed to show the child's learning process.

The Hundred Languages of Children

The most well-known aspect of the Reggio Emilia Approach. The belief that children use many different ways to show their understanding and express their thoughts and creativity. A hundred different ways of thinking, of discovering, of learning. Through drawing and sculpting, through dance and movement, through painting and pretend play, through modeling and music, and that each one of these *Hundred Languages* must be valued and nurtured. That they are all a part of the child, that learning and play are not separated. The Reggio Emilia Approach emphasizes hands-on discovery learning that allows the child to use all their senses and all their *languages* to learn.

OUR BABY AND TODDLER PROGRAMME OFFERS:

- English & Mathematics
- Theme based
- Learner - centered / creative teaching strategies
- Kidikol
- Manners 4 Minors
- Monkeynastixs

The children are encouraged to experiment with a wide selection of educational and creative equipment which includes indoor and outdoor experiences, the discovery of technology, books and freedom of fantasy play.

The curriculum is wide and varied, encompassing foundation skills in English, Mathematics and Life Orientation.

SCHOOL HOURS

Baby and Toddler School:

MONDAY-FRIDAY 06:30 – 17:30

Teachers' Consultation hours: (when not involved in extra mural activities)

Monday – Thursday: 13:00 - 14:00

2016 MCS CALENDAR

Term 1

Start: Wednesday 13th January

Holiday Program: 11th April – 22nd April

Public Holidays: Monday 21st March (Human Rights Day) Friday 3rd April (Good Friday)

Monday 28th March (Family day)

Term 2

Start: Wednesday 4th May

Holiday Program: 8th August - 19th August

Public Holidays: Thursday 16th June (Youth day)

Friday 17th June (School holiday)

Term 3

Start: Tuesday 6th September

Holiday program: 17th October -28 October

Public Holiday: Saturday 24th September (Heritage Day)

School Closes 9th December 2016 14:30

SCHOOL FEES 2016

Baby and Toddler School

Monthly

Half day 6:30 – 12:30

R2200 over 12 months

Full day

R2500 over 12 Months

Tuition fees exclude Kidikol or Monkeynastixs & Manners4Minor fees

5% Sibling Discount for 2nd child and 10% Sibling Discount for 3rd child

After Care:

R780 Monthly

12:30- 17:30 including a healthy meal and a snack.

Additional costs:

Non-Refundable Acceptance Fee

Baby and Toddler School R1250 - Once off Per Registration

Registration for after care -R500

Please note:

School fees are compulsory and are payable strictly in advance. The following methods of payment are available:

1. Monthly tuition fees: due and payable on the first of every month over a 10 month period (Jan – Oct).
2. **A full term's notice, in writing, or the equivalent is required prior to the withdrawal of a pupil.**
3. All tours, school excursions and theatre outings are payable when advised of the event.
4. ***The above School Fees EXCLUDE private extra-murals.***

BANK DETAILS

Megan Jansen Van Vuuren

ABSA: Savings

Hartbeespoort

Account No: 9198701567

Branch Code: 632005

Reference: Oldest child's name and surname & account (e.g. Fees, Bus, Outings, etc.)

CODE OF CONDUCT

As children of this age are only starting to internalize norms and values behavior is regulated immediately by discussing the misdemeanor with the child and when deemed necessary by placing the child on the "time out" for an appropriate length of time. If the behavior of the child is of such a nature that it is deemed beyond the acceptable norm for this age group the parents will be notified and a plan of action implemented.

PRIVATE EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES

We also provide some private extra mural activities which are paid by the parents directly to the provider:

AFTERCARE

Aftercare, offers delicious cooked meals, supervised homework, playground activities and sports, in a home-from-home environment.

12:30 -17:30

HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES

Should contain as little processed food as possible with a minimal number of items containing refined sugars, high GIs, colorants and preservatives. Whole wheat bread, fresh fruit, raw vegetables, nuts, raisins, cheese or yoghurt are far healthier options. No fizzy cool drinks are allowed. Fruit juices should be pure with no added sugar. The best option is to teach your child to drink unflavored pure water.

No sweets are allowed except on Fridays. We will also have tuck shop every other Friday when there is no baking.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The school gates will be locked from 8:15 to 12:30 daily, with access gained by ringing the bell.

The school is under CCTV surveillance and security guards will be on dut

NOTES

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

MRS Megan Jansen van Vuuren Principal

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