

MEAB accreditation testimonial

Hopes and Dreams is a privately run Montessori Nursery School, which has been caring for children from the age of 3 months to 5 years since 1997. In April 2014, we applied for the MEAB re-accreditation and had the pleasure of welcoming Anne McConway to our Nursery School to assess our practices.

Anne complimented us on how settled the children are and the good codes of conduct we practice, such as displaying the staff's qualifications. It is very important to us to confirm we are delivering high quality Montessori principles set out in *The Guide to the EYFS in Montessori Settings*. This reassures parents that we are a Nursery School that upholds the Montessori name and strives to provide children with a nurturing environment.

We recently had the opportunity to transform our neighbour's neglected outdoor space into a



discussions on the importance of using resources in the garden to raise the quality of outdoor play. The Outdoor Coordinator discussed themes and topics with individual rooms, which resulted in new ideas to develop the full potential of the garden, stimulate

trying to match the pictures to the plants they have had a hand in growing, clipping the numeral cards to the washing line with pegs and sticking the animal cards to the Velcro board. These activities enhance the children's outdoor learning, and this promotes their

to play in the garden.

We pride ourselves on the quality learning environment that we provide for all the children in Hopes and Dreams Nursery School and are delighted to be re-accredited. It reinforces the fact that we are practicing the

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garden for our children to enjoy. Our gardener visits every season and the children help her plant bulbs and seeds, which they care for. It is always wonderful to watch the joy on the children's faces as they pick a tomato they have grown or dig up a fresh potato from the soil. Whilst here, Anne also gave us helpful advice which has enhanced the interactions between the staff and children in the garden and utilizes its full learning potential.

Anne's advice helped the management to highlight areas of improvement. This prompted

outdoor learning and to give staff the opportunity to reinforce what the children have learnt indoors.

Many visual cards have been made for outdoor use and are accessible to the children at all times. These cards include pictures of vegetables and plants in the garden and various animals, as well as numbers and letters which have been added to colorful bunting in the garden.

The children are instantly drawn to the visual cards and the practitioners have found that they enable many discussions about the pictures, especially when

development in communication, language, mathematics and understandings of the world.

By working together, our Early Years Curriculum Officers and Outdoor Coordinator support practitioners in the garden by advising them on ways to extend children's learning. They also support practitioners with planning the weekly curriculums using the resources available to enhance outdoor learning. New resources are added based on children's interests observed by the practitioners, and children are consulted on what they would like

Montessori principles in our nursery school efficiently and to high standard, and reassures parents that Hopes and Dreams upholds the Montessori name as that we strive to provide their children with a nurturing environment where they can develop and grow.

Working towards gaining our ME re-accreditation was a positive journey for our nursery school as we would like to thank Anne for helping us evaluate our present practice in which we continue to provide our children with high quality learning experiences.

