

MONTESSORI NURSERY QUESTIONS:

- Do they have many staff who have worked there long-term or is there a high turnover?
- What are their everyday large movement practical life activities?
- What is their outdoor environment like?
- Are classes of mixed ages, for example 2.5 to 6 years?
- Is the classroom orderly & attractive, with each activity in a basket or on a tray, so they're ready for children to choose independently & engage with successfully?
- Are there floor mats rolled in a basket that a child can choose to use for independent work on the floor?
- Are there small tables so a child can choose individual concentrated work?
- How do they help the children keep the environment tidy throughout the day?
- Do the children prepare their own fruit snack each day?
- Are the children involved in all aspects of their daily living, e.g. setting the table for snacks/meals, serving themselves, pouring their own drinks, tidying their plate & cup?
- How are children encouraged to develop self-care regarding toileting, washing hands, wiping their face?
- Are there a variety of Sensorial activities, e.g. Pink Tower, Sound Boxes, Baric Tablets, Thermic Tablets & Smelling Bottles?
- Are the sessions between 2.5 - 3 hours & offer an uninterrupted work period, where children are encouraged to work independently & come together unprompted?
- Who gives 3 Period Lessons, so children can extend their vocabulary & fully utilise each sensorial activity?
- Is observation something that the educator does regularly? It's only through observation that the adult can be aware of a child's challenges & developmental needs as well as current interests, & respond by preparing the environment in order to satisfy these needs.
- How do staff link children to the environment through the child's own interests?
- How do staff comfort a child who is taking a long time to settle into nursery and crying each day? How do they support emotional development? What is their approach to resolve and repair conflict?
- Is there a regular time for parents to get feedback about their child & work together to help them thrive?
- What are their views on technology in the classroom for under 5s?
- When do they have outdoor play time - is it scheduled? How do staff make sure children who love being outdoors also get time each day for some kind of focused learning too?
- Do they have AMI trained educators, who are qualified at the appropriate age level? Are other staff in the process of getting some kind of Montessori training too?
- Are there circle groups per day & what happens in them, e.g. songs, grace & courtesy, language activities?
- What Grace & Courtesy presentations are given to children & when?
- What is the school's approach to discipline? And how do they handle behaviour issues?
- What kind of support is available for students who may need extra help or accommodations?
- How does the nursery prepare students for the next stage of their education? Ask about the school's approach to transitioning students to the next level & what resources are available to support this process.

