

## 'Bespoke' education for your children and a bright new hope for the future.

*We visited the Fiveways based Brighton and Hove Montessori School*

Montessori is a method of teaching based on the scientific observations of child development made by Maria Montessori combined with her deep interest in the development of moral values within the child. It has as its starting point a very positive view of human nature and a profound belief in the potential of every single child.

In the early years the emphasis is very much on developing confidence and learning habits of the child.

From 6-12 years old, children become a lot more aware and interested in social and moral issues and at this stage the curriculum changes to develop such skill as 'thinking for yourself', 'self motivated learning', 'appreciating diversity' and 'moral values'.

On looking around the school and observing the children I was struck by how each child was happily getting on with what they were doing. Interestingly each child was engaged in an activity of their own choice—this is part of the approach taken to nurture a love of learning in the children whilst not neglecting areas they find difficult and need extra help with.

The impression I got from the school is that each child is considered as an individual and their schooling is tailored to their own needs—a kind of bespoke education as opposed to the conveyor belt of mainstream education.

Another group of older children I saw were engaged in watering the plants in the garden and doing other gardening jobs. I remembered how at a similar age I would have taken every



opportunity to mess around and not do what I was supposed to be doing but these children were just getting on with it, asking intelligent questions of their teacher about the activity at hand and were genuinely engaged in the learning process.

Personally I found it a very encouraging experience and left wondering how, if every child was educated in this way, it would improve things in our society. But please, don't believe me, why not visit the school on their **Open Day on 18th June 1.30pm to 2.45pm or the Open Evening at 7.30pm to 8.45pm.**

	<p>The original child-centred education for 3-11 year olds</p> <p>67 Stanford Avenue, Brighton BN1 6FB Tel: 01273 702485 email: <a href="mailto:brighton.montessori@ntlworld.com">brighton.montessori@ntlworld.com</a> web: <a href="http://www.brighton-montessori.org.uk">www.brighton-montessori.org.uk</a></p>
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