

20 years of helping children to thrive as individuals

PRE-SCHOOL The Montessori Story educates young minds across Meath

IT IS over 20 years since The Montessori Story in Navan began its journey and opened its doors for the very first time. Fast forward two decades later and with a staff of 15 and a second school in Kells, owner Lynda Carroll and her team have become a stronghold in the community for families in Meath.

The schools are operated by a team of friendly, passionate and experienced Early Year Educators who are dedicated to providing quality education and play for preschoolers. Lynda says she opened the school with a vision to serve the community - to provide the Montessori philosophy and help to educate young minds.

The aim of The Montessori Story is to provide a safe, respectful and nurturing environment through which the uniqueness of each individual child is enabled to thrive. This, Lynda says, is best achieved through a mindful approach to teaching which encompasses active listening, observation, teamwork, reflective practice and continuous professional development. It is very much an inclusive service.

"Parents are the first and primary educators of their children and for this reason we value the strengths that each individual family can



The team at The Montessori Story in Kells, from left, Justyna Szweda, Karen Foran, Ashley O'Dowd, Georgina McInerney, Lynda Carroll and Tatiana Corcodel.



The Montessori Story team in Navan, back from left: Hafsa Ali, Siobhan O'Keefe, Ludy Serique da Silva, Lynda Carroll with Maisie, Fathuma McCarthy, Gabi Serique da Silva, Claire Ryan and Amanda Bathie; front, Ornella Lupo, Alanna Yeates (a past pupil), Marie-Louise Conachy.

bring to our service. Children thrive best when parents and teachers can work together to provide the best care and education for each child. At the core of our ethos is the belief that each child is unique and should be viewed from a strength's based perspective."

For the Navan woman, the success of The Montessori Story all comes down to people - both the families availing of the sessional service and of course, her dedicated and passionate team.

"I think our longevity in business is down to the quality, consistency and stability of what we have provided for families all these years. I place great importance and value on our team of teachers and I would love to take this opportunity to pay tribute to each of them for their commitment. We wouldn't be here 20 years later without the contribution of the women who are (and those who have been!) part of this team and the

Lynda Carroll with her children, Maisie and Will.

role that they play in the Early Years Sector.

Lynda, highly motivated and passionate about learning herself, had explored other career options but had a very definitive light bulb moment when she ventured into the world of Montessori education in the early 2000s and has never looked back since opening the school based in Balreask Manor, Navan in 2002 with the Kells branch following in 2004.

"Working with people - children and parents - is at the core of what we do. Seeing the progress a child makes from entering our door in September and assisting them on their first steps of their educational path is such a privilege," she said. Oftentimes we are the first to identify if a child has specific needs or requires additional support in any way. The rapport we build with parents is extremely rewarding"

She says the holistic approach to education is always the main focus.

"Our curriculum is based on the principles and philosophies of Maria Montessori which offers children five key areas of study including: ractical Life, Sensorial, Mathematics, Language, and Cultural



Past pupils all grown up!

Studies. This, being underpinned by Sfolta, Ireland's National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education, and Aistear, The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.

"Children are introduced to these subjects throughout the two year ECCE programme. They learn to share and learn to make friends - becoming part of something

outside of the home. The socialisation aspect is huge.

"We provide a nurturing environment where children can develop their self-esteem, independence, and confidence. Our Montessori curriculum provides constructive and consistent learning experiences that allow children to develop physically, intellectually, linguistically, and proba-

bly most importantly socially and emotionally. Nourishing creativity at this tender and formative stage in a young child's life really is a privilege."

If you are interested in enrolling your child at The Montessori Story, please contact the school or visit our website www.montessoristory.ie

The Montessori STORY
Unique Montessori Centre & Playschool

Welcome to The Montessori Story
A unique Montessori Centre and Playschool in
Navan & Kells, Co. Meath

- Opening hours: Mon - Fri; 09.00 - 12.00 & 12.30 - 15.30
- Part-time / Full-time places available
- We cater for children age 2 - 5 years old, with a spacious outdoor play area
- Highly qualified, friendly & experienced staff
- Registered with Tusla, fully insured & purpose built facility

If you have an interest in joining our team, please email your CV to info@montessoristory.ie

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