



.....*Making Learning Irresistible*



Kia ora!

Hello and Kia Ora - Welcome to **Kumeu Montessori Preschool**, one of West Auckland's best kept secrets! Tucked away down a quiet Kumeu side street sits a building full of adventure, where children are loved and cared for and where they have opportunity to learn about the world around them in ways that are relevant, creative and fun - a place where laughter and learning collide!

Kumeu Montessori Preschool provides a boutique preschool programme for children aged 6 months to 6 years old. With two gorgeous classrooms, and a special homely lounge area for our littlest children, your child receives a tailor made education from teachers who know them well, and know just what they are ready to learn. Because one size doesn't fit all. Our priority is to create an environment where your child feels safe, loved, happy and nurtured. We want them to have fun at KMP and to look forward to coming! And we want you to know that your child is in great hands while they are with us.

In her time, Maria Montessori was at the leading edge of education. She pioneered many of today's methods of teaching and contributed much to our understanding of how children learn. For an innovative teaching approach that integrates her amazing insights with the best of modern teaching practices for 21st century kiwi kids, come and see us today.

Kumeu Montessori Preschool and is owned and operated by Danielle McNaughton and Bronwyn Mills who are both very experienced, qualified early childhood teachers.

We welcome you to call in and see us.

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Making learning irresistible

Our goal is to make learning irresistible, by providing an environment where each child's unique talents, beliefs and experiences are valued, where their interests are nurtured and where a child's natural love for life and learning are encouraged, creating happy, confident and lifelong learners.

We believe that children learn through play, and that they also learn through more structured teaching, and our daily programme offers richly varied opportunities for learning in both areas.

We aim to help each child reach their full potential by

- Providing a high teacher to child ratio
- Fostering each child's self confidence and self-worth by creating opportunities for success at all levels
- Respectfully following each child's interests
- Offering an holistic learning environment, combining active play, creative arts, child initiated and teacher led learning
- Providing a solid foundation for numeracy and literacy
- Teaching the life skills needed to support a child's growing independence
- Developing social skills - friendship, negotiation, turn-taking, conflict resolution
- Providing ongoing opportunities to continually extend learning
- Supporting a child's emotional development - resilience, persistence, self control, flexibility, planning, awareness, empathy and more



About Montessori

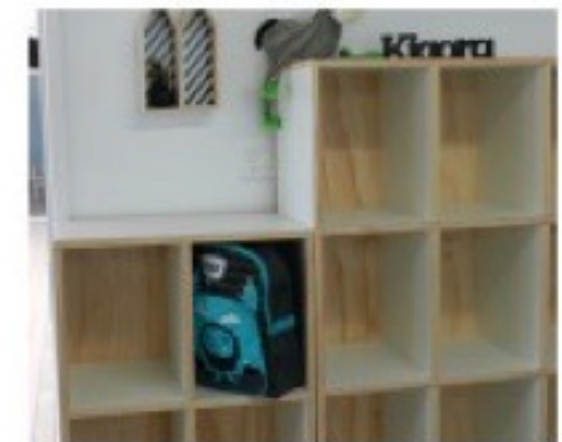
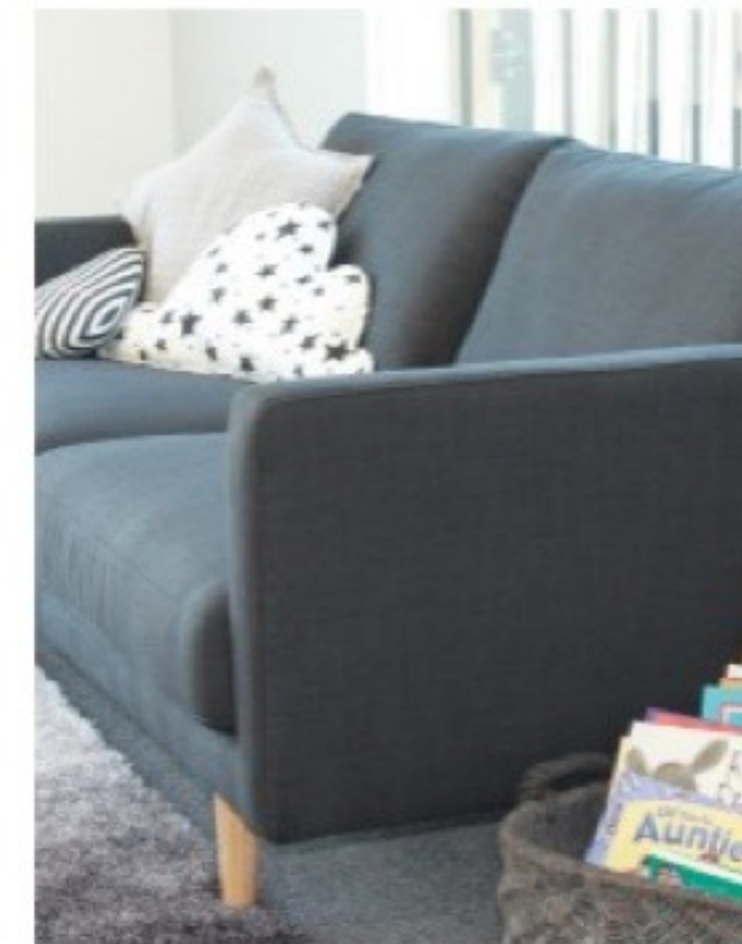
Maria Montessori pioneered an approach to education that focuses on a child's innate desire to learn and their immense capacity to absorb information when given the freedom and independence to learn at their own pace.

Born in 1870, she was the first woman to qualify as a medical doctor in Italy, before stepping into the field for which she is so well known: early childhood education.

Her deep commitment to children and her belief in their potential and uniqueness empowered her to develop an education approach that appreciates how children's thinking and learning processes differ from those of adults.

Her insights and approach to child development have been enormously influential all over the world, both through what has become the Montessori movement and through mainstream education, which has gradually adopted many of her practices.

What makes the Montessori approach different, and what makes it work so well, is that it is based on a deep understanding of the way children learn - through choosing, trying and doing themselves. When allied to the availability of specially developed materials in a prepared environment, and the close observation and guidance of a Montessori-trained teacher, this leads to an enormously powerful, confidence-building approach to learning.



A day at Kumeu Montessori

A typical day for your child involves a variety of activities and fun

A typical day for your child includes a variety of activities and fun including two interactive learning sessions, outdoor creative play and activities, music, art, craft, baking, singing, reading, gardening, maths, science, language and more.

Children are given the opportunity throughout the day for both self directed learning (where they choose the activities that interest them most from a wide, and ever changing selection inside and outside of the classroom), for more structured group learning and for learning through play.

The activities vary as each child ages, and progresses through the various developmental stages. Teaching takes place throughout the day in large groups, small groups, and in one-on-one situations. Our programme is tailor made to ensure that your child is as prepared as possible not just for 'big school', but for life.

We have a large outdoor play area which provides ample scope for small imaginations to develop. We often have fairies, butterflies, super heroes and more all running around together! Sand and water play are consistently popular and provide much tactile stimulation. Outdoor and active play promotes development of gross motor skills, spatial and body awareness.....and it's lots of fun!

One of our weekly highlights is 'Rockin Rhonda' who gets the kids up and rocking during her Wednesday afternoon music and movement class.



Keeping in Touch

We recognise that your child's education and care is something we do in partnership with you. It's important to us to have great relationships with the parents of children attending our centre. Our staff are always available for a casual chat (and quick update on the day's events) at the end of each day. If you have any concerns or would just like a slightly longer discussion about how your child is doing, or your learning aspirations for them, we are happy to meet with you outside our daily session times. Please ask any one of the teachers to set this up with you.

We complete for each child an electronic portfolio, containing a personal, visual and written record of your child's time at Kumeu Montessori Preschool. The work illustrates your child's development and celebrates their learning. A huge amount of time and effort goes into these portfolio's and they provide a valuable record for both you and your child of glorious preschool days. We welcome your comments and contributions. As new content is added to your child's portfolio, you will receive an email notification so you can keep right up to date - you can also download an EDUCA iphone or android app to enable the portfolio (and updates) to be viewed on your smartphone or tablet.

We are always available via phone or email for your queries so please don't hesitate to pick up the phone or flick us a quick message.

We publish regular updates for parents to keep you up to date with our current themes of study, and other things that are happening at our centre.



Children are the world's most valuable resource and it's best hope for the future (John F Kennedy)

Our Infant Classroom

Tucked within our Muriwai (junior) classroom is a calm nurturing area exclusively for the use of our very youngest tamariki. Our 'Muriwai Minis' area is for children aged under two years old. They have their own lounge area, a beautiful sleep room and an outside play area, just for them. Our Minis can (and regularly do) also play and learn in our Muriwai classroom and in our larger outdoor playground. This gives them the opportunity to join with the older children and learn from them. Our older children also sometimes visit our Mini space, but only if personally invited by one of our teachers. This ensures that our Minis always have their very own space to explore at their own pace.

Our Infant space provides a primary caregiver for all children aged under two, and allows richly varied and constantly changing opportunities for discovery through hands on learning and exploration. This child centred environment is lovingly designed to reflect the routines and needs of each child, to ensure that this space is their space.



Enrolling at Kumeu Montessori

To enrol your child at Kumeu Montessori

Check your child is eligible for enrolment

1. Children should be at least 6 months old.
2. To ensure settled children, and continuity of education, enrolments should be for a minimum of two days each week.
3. Our standard day is from 9am to 4pm, but we can offer a school day of 9am to 3pm, or a longer day of 8:00am to 5:00pm (subject to availability) or a combination of times within the hours of 8am—5pm. We offer limited half day sessions for children aged up to three years old, or for three year olds not yet ready to attend for a full day.

The Paperwork

1. Complete one of our enrolment forms (if you do not have one, you can download a form from our website www.kumeumontessori.co.nz).
2. Please clearly indicate on your enrolment form which days you would like to enrol your child for and your preferred start date.
3. We are required to sight a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport, and their immunisation certificate (immunisation is not required, but we do need to hold details of each child's immunisation status). Please provide a copy of both of these forms.
4. Return these forms to us and we'll let you know when a free session is available. Please note that we sometimes have a waiting list, but children do come and go on a reasonably regular basis as they either transition to school or as their family circumstances change.



Settling In

Children start preschool with a range of prior experiences, differing needs and at different stages of development. Starting preschool can be an anxious time for both parents and children. We want the transition from home to preschool to be gentle, enjoyable and positive and for children to feel safe, stimulated and happy at Kumeu Montessori and secure and comfortable with our staff. We also want parents to have confidence in both their children's well being and their role as active partners with us. Some children feel comfortable and settle straight away, while others take longer to get used to their new environment.

Before your child starts, we encourage between two and three visits where they can stay for a while to get to know the staff, the other children, the centre layout and routines etc. For the first visit we suggest your child stays for approximately one hour, so that we can start to familiarise them with our routines etc. For the second visit we suggest leaving your child for a full morning. If ideal for your child, a third visit can follow. These visits will be a time when your child will begin to settle and form trusting relationships with staff, and ensure a sense of familiarity when they start. Children will be shown where the toilets are, where to put their lunchbox, bag etc and will be encouraged to join in with the activities. Parents can be asked about any particular eating or sleeping habits that their child has.

Younger children will sometimes take longer to settle in, as will some children who have not previously spent time away from home. Some children may need more than two visits and if this is the case more can be arranged. We will be very flexible in working out with you what is best for your child.

The First Day

Some children separate from their parents more readily than others. However, please feel confident that most children will settle quickly when you leave. Usually, it works best if mum or dad say goodbye to their child and explain that they will be coming back, and when. Parents are very welcome to phone at any point during the day to check that all is well. Teachers provide feedback at pickup time about the child's time at Preschool and, where possible, will contact the parents during the first day to provide an update on how their child is doing. If you have any concerns, you are most welcome to raise them at any time.

Settling In

We judge a child to be settled when they have formed a relationship with one or more of the teaching staff; for example the child looks for the key person/s when he/she arrives, goes to them for comfort, and seems pleased to be with them. The child is also familiar with where things are and is pleased to see other children and participate in activities.



Things to bring



A healthy lunch for your child, in a named lunchbox

A drinkbottle (named) (water only please)

At least one spare set of clothes (preferably two), including underwear. Please make sure all clothing is named.

Spare nappies or pull-ups if your child is not yet fully toilet trained.

A wide-brimmed sunhat in the summer and a warm beanie for winter.

A sweatshirt or jacket for those days where we experience 'four seasons in one day'.

Sandals or slip on shoes in the summer. Gumboots are ideal for winter (and slippers or warm socks to wear inside).

Children can, if they choose to, also bring in items to share at our morning group time, 'BUZZ NEWZ'. This might be something that your child is particularly interested in or something they have recently discovered.

No toys please, though comfort toys are always welcome.

Social Media

From time to time, we post photos and updates on our daily activities on social media sites, so if you would like to view these, please like or follow our pages. These updates are 'chatty' in nature only, and social media is not used to convey messages or information to parents, simply to provide a glimpse of our day. We always endeavour to obtain your consent to your child's photo appearing on social media, and completely respect that some parents prefer that their child is not included on social media post - please feel free to advise us accordingly.



kumeu.montessori.preschool



Kumeu Montessori Preschool

Contact Details

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