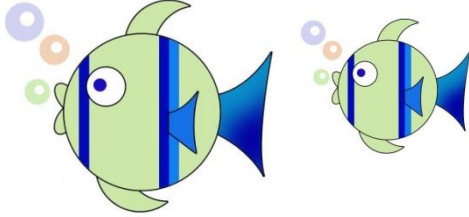


big fish - little fish montessori



Parents Information Brochure

11 Marlborough Way

Parklands, 7441

Tel: 021 556-3453

Email: BFLF@telkomsa.net

Michelle: 073 250 8557

Dear Parent,

Please find enclosed information about what is required from you. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle at the office.

GENERAL

Big Fish Little Fish is owned and run as a Christian based Montessori pre-primary school by Michelle Vamvadelis. Having acquired the business in February 2006, it was transformed into a Montessori school for children aged from birth to 6 years, offering a Montessori learning experience in which children are encouraged to learn at their own pace and in which they gain independence and a love of learning.

SCHOOL TIMES AND HOLIDAYS

Big Fish Little Fish is open from 6:30am—6:00pm. If you know you are going to be late, please phone the school and let us know. However, parents are advised that collection after 1pm (for half day children) and 6:00pm will be charged to them at the end of the month (R100 per hour or any part thereof).

Breakfast is served from 7h15 up until 8h15. Please make sure your child is here by then alternatively you will need to feed them at home. Children in the 3 – 6 class need to be at school by 8:130 at the latest for their class morning ring time (This forms an integral part of their day and a lot is covered at this time).

Big Fish Little Fish is closed on public holidays and is also closed for a total number of $\pm 4 / 5$ other days through the year as listed below.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2020

School opens	Thursday	9th January 2020
School holiday	Monday	16th June 2020
School holiday	Friday	25th September 2020
School holiday	Monday	23rd September 2019
School closes	Tuesday	15th December 2020 (@ 11h30)
School reopens	Monday	11th January 2021

ABSENTEES

Parents are requested to let us know via the digital diary if their child will not be attending school on any particular day. Children may not attend school if they have any infectious illnesses as germs spread easily. If your child shows symptoms of illness you will be called to collect them. Please ensure that you have read the "Sick Policy"

BIRTHDAYS

You are welcome to share your child's birthday with us at school and have their party during snack time. If providing a cake, we suggest you send small cupcakes as children tend not to eat the big, bought cakes covered in icing. Children are encouraged to donate an appropriate reading book to their class on their birthday month. We will place a sticker inside with their name and

year of donation and the child get to present this book to their class during their special birthday ring.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We currently offer Monkeynastix, Swimming, Radical Rhythms (drumming), Experibuddies, Beaux Arts, Wiggle & Jam, Dance Mouse and Ballet as optional extra activities at school. These activities take place at school. For costs and further information please ask Michelle. Demo lessons of the above extra murals will be held in the New Year and the brochures will be sent out.

Included in your fee:

We have included a physical education class which the children will receive every week. We have outsourced a coach for this purpose. All ages from 1 – 6 are included. The children also receive weekly a 30 min Manners4Minors lesson, this is a specialized program which is aimed at introducing them to the benefits of having good manners and displaying acceptable social skills. Through the use of interactive role play, props, puppets and interesting environments - together with positive reinforcement, peer encouragement and a carefully designed curriculum, it stimulates interest in manners that will extend beyond the school walls, and which will have a positive impact on every aspect of learners' lives. Ages 2 – 6 included

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Our school makes use of a digital dairy which can be downloaded on your smart phone. This service comes at a cost of R 40 per month. The programme allows you to communicate with teachers, send absentee notes, look at daily activities, school reminders etc.

Parents are welcome to contact me by email or WhatsApp if there is anything you would like to discuss or to let me know if your child will not be attending school. I do have an open-door policy so please feel free to pop in and come and talk to me anytime.

DROP & GO

Parents are asked to kiss and go at the gate, please hand your child to the teacher on duty and say your goodbyes there. Please make sure that you do not send your child to school with any toys and that these are taken away before they walk in the door. The school will take no responsibility for ANYTHING brought in other than those things that are required. If your child does not need a dummy, please make sure that this is put into their bag at the door.

MEDICINES

Parents are asked to strictly adhere to our Sick Policy. If your child has required Panado / Calpol on the morning before being brought to school then they are too ill to be here. Any medication brought to school should be for emergency use only or prescription.

Should you need to bring medicine to school, please remember that it is to be placed and collected by you from the medicine box. Every single dose needs to be recorded in the Digital diary DAILY. Please do not leave any medicine in your child bag. Parents are asked to please take note that we are not a nursing centre. If your child is in need of medication they really should not be at school at all (and we will make an exception at our own discretion as per the school Sick Policy). The school does not keep any “stock” medicines on the premises

WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

All children need to bring a full change of clothes to school in their bag every day as spills do occasionally occur. Please mark **all** clothing with your child’s name. Parents are asked to please not send any toys to school (It is preferable that the toys are left in the car for mommy to look after)

Nursery: Parents are to provide all nappies and wet wipes for their child, at least 2 changes of clothes, bottles and introduction foods and snacks are supplied by you. Should you wish to buy in bulk (tin of formula, pack of nappies) these will be stored for you. Please supply two bottles which can stay at school, one for water and one for milk feeds. Please supply the following: sheet as indicated below and 1 x bed pillow (regular size)

ALL CHILDREN ARE TO SUPPLY:

- 2 x box tissues for the year
- 6 x packet wet wipes for the year
- 1 x sunscreen for the year
- In summer we require a sun hat that can stay at school. In winter a

pair of rain boots and slippers – your child’s teacher will communicate with you when these are required.

- All children are to please bring a STD fitted cot sheet (size 117 x 55 x 10), clearly marked, please ensure correct size or they do not fit the mattresses. (THE ABC range from Baby City fits best).

Toddlers / Feeder Class: Children who are still in nappies need to provide enough nappies and wet wipes for each day (at least 4) or per week. During potty training please provide at least 4 changes of underwear and shorts/trousers. Wet wipes for nappy changes are required separately to class wipes. Please supply 1 x water bottle (straw or sports), to stay at school

Toddler Stationery Requirement:

1 pkt	Jumbo Wax Crayons
1	Beginners kids scissors
2	Big Pritt Glue Stick
1	30 page Flip File

3 – 6 year Montessori Classes:

1 pkt	Staedtler / Monami Retractable Crayons
1 pkt	Staedtler Colouring pencils
2	Glue stick - Pritt
1	Beginners kids scissors
1	Book bag PVC with zip A4
1	A4 college 72pg book FM

MEALS

All snacks and meals will be provided by the school. The weekly menu is available and updated on the digital diary. Please inform the school of any specific dietary requirements

Meal times:

Breakfast - varied (no breakfast served after 8h15)

Morning snack - varied @10h00

Lunch as per the menu @ 11h45

Afternoon snack (sandwich, fruit & juice) @ 15h00

Late snack (fruit / biscuit) @ 17h00

SCHOOL FEES

All fees are payable in advance by the 1st day of each month preferably by electronic transfer into the school's bank account or in cash. No cheques will be accepted unless by prior arrangement. If fees are not paid by the 3rd, your child will not be accepted at school until the fees have been paid in full. There is an annual administration fee of R 1000 charged in January, if you enrol during the year that fee will be charged pro rata. School fees from January 2021 will be charged over an 11 month period for the year.

School Fees:	2019	2020
Full Day:	R 3,300.00	R 3,400.00
Half Day:	R 2,900.00	R 3,000.00
Nursery:	R 2,700.00	R 2,800.00

Comparison between Montessori and Traditional schools	
Montessori Schools	Traditional Schools
Teacher's part is to guide child to act & think for himself.	Teacher does all & the child is forced to follow.
Child chooses materials.	Teacher sets curriculum.
Child sets own pace.	Teacher sets pace.
Child is free to discover on his own.	Teacher guides the children.
Emphasis is on concrete.	Emphasis is laced on abstract.
Reality orientated.	Much role play & fantasy.
Specific places for materials – develops a sense of order.	Random placement – Not necessary to return to a specific place.
Child-centred learning environment.	Teacher-centred environment.
Child provides own stimuli.	Teacher provides stimuli for learning.
Self-education through self-correcting materials.	Use of reward & punishment in motivation for learning.
Recognition of sensitive periods. Eg for learning language, movement, order etc	All children are treated alike.
Liberty to move about self & furniture.	Rigid rules NOT to move furniture & sit is designated places.
Liberty to speak (without disturbing others) as he pleases.	Silence is on many occasions enforced.
Disorderly conduct in class is regarded as teacher's fault, she seeks it out & corrects it.	Children are punished even if fault lies at the teacher's in capabilities.
Multi-sensory materials to develop specific skills.	Play materials for non-specific skills

Some of my best Quotes by Dr. Maria Montessori

- “Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.”
- “The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, "The children are now working as if I did not exist.”
- “Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.”
- “If education is always to be conceived along the same antiquated lines of a mere transmission of knowledge, there is little to be hoped from it in the bettering of man's future.”
- “We discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being”.
- “The education of even a small child, therefore, does not aim at preparing him for school, but for life.”