

# Milkshake Montessori Nursery School

## Ground Rules

At Milkshake Montessori Nursery School we offer the children 'freedom within limits' which are instilled in our ground rules.

They include respecting: one another; the environment and the apparatus. They are concise, consistently applied and instill a sense of fairness among the group.

As the term implies ground rules are established limits of behaviour which enable a number of children moving and working in close proximity to do so in harmony. The child's rights are met with responsibilities which are nurtured, developed and supported in the Montessori Environment.

In fostering the partnership between the setting and home environment we encourage you to follow similar ground rules with your child/ren.

- Right: The child is free to work with any materials displayed in the environment.
- Responsibility: The child must use the materials respectfully. That is, the child may not harm the materials, themselves or others. The child may not use materials in a way that disturbs the activities of others in the environment.
- Right: The child may work at a table or on a rug, whichever is suitable to the work chosen.
- Responsibility: The child may not work at or on a display shelf, as their presence would obstruct other children's access to the materials. All pieces of the work must remain on the floor mat or at the table.
- Right: The child has the freedom to use the room as his/her needs dictate.

- Responsibility: The child restores the environment during and after an exercise. The child is responsible for mopping up spills, rolling up their own floor mat, placing their chair under their place at the table, and returning work to the appropriate place on the shelf.
- Right: The child has the right to work unrestricted by others. They may initiate, complete, or repeat an exercise alone and without a break in the concentration cycle.
- Responsibility: Children are discouraged from interfering with the work of another without an invitation to do so. This provides security for the child involved in an exercise to continue until completion. If the child must leave their work temporarily, they can continue later confident that it will be as they left it when they return.
- Right: The child does not need to join in a group activity. They may continue working with an individual exercise during group activities, or they may stand apart from the group as an observer without becoming an active participant.
- Responsibility: The child is discouraged from interfering or disturbing an activity they have chosen not to join; this is their responsibility to the group.
- Right: The child may work alone.
- Responsibility: A child is not forced to share their work. Generosity develops from within as a child matures and gains self-security. With adequate materials and supportive ground rules, sharing comes naturally in cases where sharing is appropriate or necessary.
- Right: The child is free to do nothing if they so desire. They may be learning by observing others, thinking, or may simply be relaxing.
- Responsibility: The child's idleness is not allowed to disturb or distract others' activities.

