

# La maternelle

*Accredited by the French Ministry of Education (AEFE)*



## **ECOLE MATERNELLE , (CYCLE 1) INCLUDES:**

- Nursery School (Toute Petite Section)
- Preschool (Petite Section)
- Pre-Kindergarten (Moyenne Section)
- Kindergarten (Grande Section)

## **LEARNING TOGETHER — THE CLASSROOM**

Children grow, learn independence, and build personalities through relationships with other children and adults. Learning how to share the same educational setting means learning how to communicate.

**Communication:** Students use verbal and non-verbal communication to get their message across and to interpret their surroundings. Children learn how to speak in a group and listen to others.

**Morning Greeting:** Every morning begins with social time. Children may explore the classroom, practice language skills, and learn how to assert themselves within a group.

**Group Life:** Throughout the day, children engage in activities that encourage self-knowledge as well as positive interactions with others. Students play both spontaneous and rule-oriented games. Completion of group projects and the sharing of responsibilities within the classroom are integral parts of the preschool environment.

## **LEARNING HOW TO BUILD LANGUAGE SKILLS**

At the FAC, two kinds of activities allow a child to improve his or her language skills. First, children will experience situations where they can freely express themselves. Then, in a variety of speech games, they will listen and speak following a predetermined pattern. In both cases, the teacher's key role is to create opportunities. Progressively, children begin to understand and master language skills, while at the same time they become familiar with simple reading and writing codes.



## **DISCOVERING THE WORLD**

Preschool provides children with a general introduction to the world, different cultures, and their own community.

Children learn to discover and respect what they learn. They talk about these discoveries through asking questions and searching for answers.

## **IMAGINATION & CREATIVITY**

In preschool, children develop sensitivity, imagination, creativity, the ability to focus their attention, critical thinking, and the expression of feelings, preferences, and choices. It's a time when children invent and learn to build, applying their intellectual capacity to tangible matters, virtually without limit.

**Music:** Teachers use voice games, songs, movement, instruments, and rhythm exercises to foster imagination and creativity.

**Art:** Visual and tactile explorations of shapes, objects and colors, along with the practice of easy crafts, visual memory exercises and drawing, are all outlets for a child's expression.

**Drama and Dance:** Creative movement and acting out characters encourage individual and group imagination.

## **GRAPHIC TECHNIQUES**

Using appropriate exercises, children improve their manual dexterity. They also explore graphic space and lines.

**Drawing:** For children, drawing is a critical and spontaneous way of translating a narrative or verbal description.

**Writing:** Children learn the skill of writing and the links between oral and written communication.

## **MATH**

All basic notions of arithmetic and geometry are easily accessible to children even before they are introduced to the abstractions of language and math. Very often,

children perceive counting and learning numbers as a game. Preschool is a perfect place to show how numbers are an integral part of our daily lives.



### **SOCIAL LIFE & MANNERS**

Children learn to understand and apply the basic lessons of good manners, appropriate social behavior, politeness.