





# OUR PHILOSOPHY IS INSPIRED BY THAT OF THE 'REGGIO EMILIA' APPROACH TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

# THE CHILDREN

Our children are considered from birth as competent, resourceful, curious, imaginative and inventive with an innate desire to interact and communicate with others. Children grow and learn through interaction and relationships, with parents, carers and peers, in a friendly and welcoming learning environment.

# THE CARERS AND TEACHERS

Our role as carers and teachers is that of a learner alongside the children. The carer and teacher are also researchers - a resource and a guide in the children's journey of discovery. Within this role we listen carefully, observe the child's work and growth.

All our staff are qualified in childcare, food handling and first aid. We're experienced and are committed to a programme of continuous professional development. All carer to child ratios comply with the established standards for childcare services.

# THE ENVIRONMENT

The 'Reggio' approach refers to the environment as the "third teacher". We give a great deal of attention to the look and feel of the places utilised by the children. Carers organise environments that are rich in possibilities and provocations and that invite the children to explore and solve problems. They often do this in small groups using age-appropriate materials, role-playing, collective singing and water play.

# DOCUMENTATION

Children's work is documented and displayed. The artwork, models, collections that children make, is displayed at both adults' and children's eye-levels. Documentation is necessary for children to express, revisit feelings, ideas and understandings.

# **DIALOGUE WITH THE CHILD'S FAMILY**

All that we offer is only meaningful in the context of a healthy relationship between the child's family and us as the children's carers. We encourage open and frequent dialogue. We assure families that we address concerns as quickly and effectively as possible. We appreciate that families are entrusting us their precious ones and promise to treat them as our own.

To keep families abreast with their child's development, we monitor each child through established age-appropriate milestones. These documented observations are thereafter conveyed to families both individually and also through monthly activity reports. The latter are published regularly in password-protected sections of our website.

# **HOLIDAY CLUBS**

Holiday club programmes are available for children aged 3-6 and run according to demand during all school holidays such as Summer, Mid-Term, Christmas, Carniva, and Easter. The programmes are developed and designed to be fun and engaging for all.



#### THE PREMISES

All our premises exceed the established standards for such facilities. No expense has been spared to ensure safety in the construction, layout and materials used. The setting and furnishings are informal, well-lit, spacious and bright.

Age-appropriate sanitary facilities are available providing the required privacy and with non-locking doors for safety reasons.

# THE OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

Outdoor play is an essential daily activity. This allows the children to experience a natural environment, to play, explore and grow.

Our outside areas have been designed to offer diverse opportunities to the children. Proper flooring has been installed for maximum safety. Water play is also considered an important educational component in a child's education and our outdoor play areas offer plenty of opportunities for this.



# THE CHILDREN

# **BABIES**

We accept babies from 3 months old and these are accommodated in a separate space, with appropriate bedding and play activity areas. Babies (until the age of 12 months) also enjoy daily time in our welcoming and stimulating outdoors - an experience that is beneficial to their general development and health. All our centres are equipped with full kitchen facilities to ensure feeds are stored and prepared in

# **TODDLERS** (13-36M)

hygienic settings.

Toddlers enjoy a wide range of play activities.
Children learn through play. All activities serve to stimulate them to increase experiences and relationships. Our centres are designed to be re-arranged to accommodate various small groups doing different activities at the same time.

Cooking is a central weekly activity that offers children many learning opportunities. Our kitchen and sanitary facilities allow this activity to take place in the appropriate setting, whilst maintaining high standards of hygiene.

# **KINDERGARTEN**

at Kidstart Sta Venera (3-5 years)

Kindergarten-aged children are on the first floor of the Centre. The environment is welcoming and bright in order to stimulate the children's creativity and learning. Two rooms accommodate the children whilst a central 'pjazza' provides the perfect setting for messy activities as well as an opportunity for all the children to meet and play together.

The programme is based on the National Minimum Curriculum and aims to enhance children holistically – their intellectual, social, physical, emotional and moral development. The centre is registered and certified by the Department of Education.

