



## Welcome to Capriccio in 2014!

Thank you for your interest in our school – a creative, fun-filled home environment designed with the cognitive, emotional, physical, social and artistic development of boys and girls aged 2.5 – 6 years in mind.

The Italian word *Capriccio* has the following meaning:

- ⌚ A lively piece of music, short and free in form;
- ⌚ A painting or work of art representing a fantasy or a mixture of real and imaginary features.

Both the above interpretations have bearing on our approach to early childhood development, designed to make the absolute most of the profound benefits of early exposure to the arts:

- ⌚ We encourage children to develop a passion for the arts in the fleeting early years of life, while giving them the advantage of acquiring skills that will help them excel in other areas such as mathematics, languages, and science later in life. The expressive needs and individual developmental abilities of our children are always taken into account.
- ⌚ We maintain an effective balance between right- and left brain stimulation.

### OUR PHILOSOPHY

“Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.” – Albert Einstein

At *Capriccio! Arts Powered Pre-school*, we are passionate about the *power of art education* in all its forms, namely music, dance, drama and visual art.

- ⌚ We believe in art as a powerful means of learning, a premise we like to describe as *arts-driven learning*. The various forms of art have an infinite capacity to affect brain and body and act as a unifying force, a vehicle by which important cognitive, physical, emotional and social skills can be developed and integrated in young children.
- ⌚ We believe that children possess an innate property for appreciation and enjoyment of the arts – a deep desire to express themselves through art, which need to be fulfilled in order for them to progress, self-actualize and foster healthy self-esteem.
- ⌚ We believe that arts education is essential and profound to developing well-balanced and healthy communities.

We are a *Montessori inspired* pre-school, focused on following the individual child, recognising his/her ability to direct his/her own learning in a carefully prepared learning environment and enabling our children to develop at their own pace, following their own natural rhythm. The traditional Montessori areas of learning, namely practical life, education of the senses, literacy, numeracy & arithmetic, knowledge & understanding of the world, creativity, and outdoor learning, are integrated in our methodology and materials. We offer a loving home environment, in keeping with Maria Montessori’s “Casa dei Bambini” concept.

*Sport and technology* are not left behind. Encouraging an early interest in technology whilst guiding our children toward a healthy lifestyle nurturing physical development through sport, are further important aspects addressed in our approach.

*Capriccio! Arts Powered Pre-school* provides a bilingual, loving, fun-filled, all-round creative environment for little ones aged 2.5 - 6 years, functioning from within our Christian ethos, fostering family values, an affinity for the arts and creative thinking from a young age, allowing each child the freedom to flourish at his/her own pace and develop his/her own unique potential.

"I believe that creativity will be the currency of the 21st century."

– Gerald Gordon, Ph.D., President/CEO, Fairfax County (Virginia) Economic Development Authority

## OUR CURRICULUM:

Our unique, well-researched curriculum sets the stage for emerging symbolic and creative thinking, advanced literacy and numeracy skills, and the ability to listen attentively. It is based on findings by acclaimed authors of works pertaining to child psychology, early childhood education, neurology and brain development, my own practical experience of more than 15 years in performing arts youth development and current popular childhood creative development programmes.

Our school week makes provision for elements and materials of the Montessori method to be combined with our specialized creative development programmes, all of which form part of our curriculum (and are ***included in our school fees***), delivered within the context of our current theme.

### 1. MONTESSORI CONTENT:

- ✓ **Practical Life:** Activities aimed at helping children develop skills which may assist them to become independent, including manipulative skills, care for the environment, self-care and courtesy.
- ✓ **Education of the Senses:** Materials and activities focusing on a specific sensory aspect such as visual perception, taste, smell, sound, texture, shape, weight or temperature.
- ✓ **Language & Literacy:** Activities to support emerging literacy include reading, story-telling and exposure to materials promoting writing and reading skills.
- ✓ **Numeracy & Arithmetic:** Materials and activities introducing the mathematical concepts of matching, pairing, sorting and sequencing, as well as estimation, symmetry and one-to-one correspondence, promoting logical systematic work.
- ✓ **Knowledge & Understanding of the World:** Materials and activities introducing children to geography, history, nature and culture studies.

### 2. SPECIALIST CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES:

- 🎵 **OKeyDoKids:** Our specialist music programme, which incorporates elements of music and sound, presented by me personally, is delivered in our music studio during a weekly session with each age group, covering percussion work, instruments, singing, listening and performance skills, together with daily engagement in fun action songs and rhymes.
- 🎵 **DemiDance:** Our dance and creative movement programme, drawing inspiration from various forms of dance, such as ballet, modern, contemporary, tap, Spanish and hip hop, as well as holistic fitness programmes such as the Nia (Neuromuscular Integrative Action) technique, is delivered in our dance studio during a weekly age relevant session with each group, presented by me personally.
- 🎨 **ArtXpress:** Our visual arts programme promotes self-expression, fine motor skills and creative application of our themes. It is presented in our art shed in dedicated weekly age appropriate sessions including painting and/or craft-making work within a variety of mediums, but also involves regular opportunities for engagement in drawing, colouring-in, moulding, cutting or pasting activities and free expression within specific mediums.
- 🎭 **Plot 'n Play:** Our Speech & Drama programme, encouraging clear and confident speech, public speaking skills, basic theatre and performance skills and the abundant use of imagination and play, is presented weekly and integrated with our theme. Our little ones also enjoy their "show & tell" and "talent shows" from time to time, when they are given an opportunity to "show off" a little and learn about appreciating each other's singing, dancing and recital skills.
- 🏃 **LocoMoto:** Our dedicated motor skills programme, which enhances gross motor skills development and balance, incorporates physical activities like jumping, running, skipping, climbing, rolling, balancing and basic self-defence techniques. It is presented weekly for everyone in an age relevant small group session; for boys a weekly karate session, presented by 3<sup>rd</sup> dan karate instructor Thornley Webber, is currently included as part of this programme.

- 🌀 *Ball Bunnies*: Our ball sports programme, designed to introduce children to ball sport skills, is presented every week, aiding the development of ball sense and emphasizing the importance of participation in sport and/or regular physical activity, by means of a variety of fun ball activities and games.
- 🌀 *Cookin' Clues*: Our cooking and baking class, presented every alternate week, fosters confidence and creativity in the kitchen whilst advocating healthy choices and lifestyle habits.
- 🌀 *Little Green Heart*: Our “going green” programme, instilling love and respect in our children for nature, plants, animals, the environment and our planet, is presented every alternate week.
- 🌀 *XperiWorld*: Our science programme, consisting of fun science experiments, is presented every alternate week, encouraging analytical thinking in curious young minds.
- 🌀 *KiddoBytes*: Our information technology programme, presented weekly, introduces children to elementary computer skills by means of educational computer games and activities. Learning is reinforced by daily opportunities in the classroom to practise newly acquired computer skills. Key focus areas include getting to know the computer, mastering mouse manipulation, pairing, sorting, alphabet, numbers and memory games.
- 🌀 *EmotiCom*: A module aimed at raising our little ones’ emotional intelligence (EQ) through the use of stories, discussion and role play, helping them to learn how to identify, use, understand, and manage emotions in positive ways to relieve stress, communicate effectively, empathize with others, overcome challenges, and defuse conflict.
- 🌀 *Valiant Values*: Instilling values like honesty, integrity and sincerity by means of story-telling, games and role play.
- 🌀 *Manners Matter*: This module introduces grace, courtesy, etiquette and social skills, reinforcing learning through role play, stories and other media.
- 🌀 *LifePrep*: A module aimed at equipping our children with practical life skills, covering aspects such as child safety, hygiene, road safety, learning to tell time and the basics of entrepreneurship.
- 🌀 *Pinky Tickles*: Fostering a sense of humour – an important coping skill that enhances the experience of modern-day living!

We offer two daily opportunities (weather permitting) for free outdoor play, i.e. following our mid-morning snack and before collection time, during which our jungle gym, sandpit and open lawn are firm favourites among the children.

During our daily indoor play & learn sessions, we encourage our little ones to engage in Montessori activities, making use of the relevant didactic materials where possible. In addition, educational puzzles, flash cards about shapes, colours, numbers and the alphabet, building blocks, toys encouraging imaginative play, computers, books and a wide variety of music are used by children and teachers on a daily basis.

In terms of school readiness, as a Montessori inspired environment, we view the 3 – 6 year old window as a continuous cycle in which school readiness is developed. We also make use of specific school readiness workbooks on a regular basis and are excited to announce that we will be offering an official Grade R year from 2014.

## DAILY SCHEDULE:

Our school is open on week days (Monday to Friday) from 8h00 – 16h30. Children may arrive any time in the morning between 8h00 and 8h45, after which our structured daily program commences (schedule attached herewith). School finishes at 13h15 and afternoon care starts at 13h30, ending at 16h30. Aftercare closes at 15h30 on Friday afternoons.

## CALENDAR:

Since we are a feeder school for Curro Century City, we follow the Curro private schools calendar and our children are allowed access into the Curro Century City holiday care programme (by special arrangement). School closes at 12h00 on the last day of each school term (no aftercare) and we are closed on public holidays.

## SNACKS & LUNCH:

We provide a healthy mid-morning snack, such as fresh fruit and whole-wheat bread fingers, as well as a nutritious home-cooked lunch meal prepared with fresh ingredients in a healthy way, like macaroni & cheese with salad, fish fingers and vegetables, roasted chicken with rice & veggies, etc. No food needs to be brought from home, except for a healthy afternoon snack (if staying for afternoon care). Please ensure that you notify us of any special dietary requirements or food allergies, in order for us to arrange the relevant substitution. Our current menu for the week is displayed on our notice board.

## PARENT COMMUNICATION & FEEDBACK REPORTS:

We place a high premium on synergy between the school and home environment as conducive to the well-being of each of our little ones.

We communicate with parents via email, sms, WhatsApp and BBM from time to time and encourage all to stay in tune with the latest school news and activities by “liking” our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ArtsPreSchool](http://www.facebook.com/ArtsPreSchool).

We are not in favour of exposing children to strict evaluation / assessment procedures at such a young age, but do provide two parent feedback reports during the course of the year, i.e. mid-year and end-of-year.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Should your child have any special requirements, such as nap-time requirements, etc., we will do our utmost to accommodate his/her needs – feel free to discuss these with me personally.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Non-refundable, once-off enrolment fee payable upon notification of successful application: R2,500 per child.

Fees are calculated annually based on four school terms and will be subject to annual escalation.

- *2014 School fees:* R27,600 per annum payable monthly in advance in 12 instalments of R2,300 each (January to December), kindly due by the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of each month.
- *2014 Afternoon care fees:* R9,600 per annum payable monthly in advance in 12 instalments of R800 each (January to December), due together with school fees by the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of each month.

Note that the school will supply a list of materials required for arts and/or other education (e.g. dancing shoes, recorder, etc), at the beginning of the year, which will be for parents’ account.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.artspreschool.co.za](http://www.artspreschool.co.za) or feel free to contact me telephonically or via email.

Assuring you of our best attention at all times and looking forward to sharing a magical adventure with you and your little one 😊

Kind regards,

*Flbe Webber (principal)*



Tel: (021) 551-7008

Cell: 081 271 0572

Fax: 086 608 4000

Email: [info@artspreschool.co.za](mailto:info@artspreschool.co.za)

Website: [www.artspreschool.co.za](http://www.artspreschool.co.za)