

Melbourne Montessori School



Curriculum Overview Cycle 1 2020



Cycle 1

Curriculum Overview

Language

Children bring with them to school a wide range of experiences with Language and texts. These experiences are included in the curriculum as valid ways of communicating and as rich resources for further learning about Language, Literature and Literacy. The child in the upper level of Cycle 1 engages with purposeful listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing activities for different purposes and contexts.

The Language curriculum aims to extend the abilities of children's prior learning and to provide the foundation needed for continued learning. Study in the Language area develops children's skills and dispositions to expand their knowledge of Language, as well as strategies to assist that growth. It aims to do this through pleasurable and varied experiences of Literature and through the beginnings of a repertoire of activities involving listening, viewing, speaking, writing and reading. Experiences include listening to a range of quality Literature, songs, rhymes as well as writing stories, letters, signs, poems, factual and imaginative texts.

Mathematics

Upon entering the final year of Cycle 1, children will have been exposed to much intentional Mathematics learning, accessing powerful mathematical ideas, concepts and language relevant to their own experience. Beginning with understanding number, counting, pattern and geometry, children consolidate and build upon their mathematical knowledge by using specific materials and through real life contexts.

The Mathematics Curriculum looks to extend the children's prior knowledge and to provide the foundation needed for continued learning. Experiences provided aim to meaningfully link mathematical concepts to the children's everyday activity. They also learn about measurement and concepts of position, location and direction. Activities such as cooking, counting in meaningful contexts, discussing the order of days, months, and everyday measurement also bring mathematics concepts to life.



Cultural Studies

The curriculum area of Cultural Studies is one in which the children learn to appreciate the natural and social world through their senses and as such it encompasses the areas of Science, Geography and History. In Cycle 1, children are interested in observing natural and social phenomena, and are developing a framework for classifying the features of the world around them. The cultural program broadens the children's understanding of the world in which they live.

By exploring their immediate environment, studying maps, flags, songs, pictures and books, and having rich discussions they begin to appreciate the diversity of culture, heritage and tradition in their world. They also develop an understanding of the interdependence between land, people, plants and animals through experiences such as gardening, composting, recycling, cultural celebrations and cooking.

Children have the opportunity to acquire knowledge of how plants grow, seasonal changes, healthy cooking and eating, and how to care for themselves and their environment. Children appreciate their personal history through birthday celebrations, discussing their own and others' family stories, cultures and heritage, as well as learning about Australian Indigenous cultures and global historical narratives. Through all of this, children are developing their spoken and written language skills, and inquiry skills, learning ways to express their knowledge of the world around them.

Physical Expression

During Physical Expression classes this semester the Cycle One children have focused on healthy and active habits through the development of gross motor skills such as running, jumping, hopping and skipping. In each class a series of Brain Gym exercises have been taught incorporating a range of multi-skills such as balance, crossing the midline and co-ordination.

We have been developing aerobic fitness through minor games, shuttle runs and fitness circuits that everyone can participate in and feel a sense of achievement. The children have worked on co-operative behaviour, team work and following verbal and visual cues whilst exploring the skills of rolling, spatial awareness, laterality and hand and foot eye co-ordination and calming activities.

Basic singing, movement to music, body percussion and performance skills have been taught focusing on lyrics and choreography for each song. Song examples have included 'I like the flowers', 'Fly like a Butterfly' and 'The Heel and Toe Polka'. Timing, intonation and pitch are concepts that are constantly referred to in lessons whilst the children have clapped, stepped and tapped using rhythm sticks and other percussion instruments.

The students have learnt the importance of etiquette as a performer and audience member and have acted out the characters from storybooks and nursery rhymes. It has been a delight to see the children learn to move and understand what their young bodies are capable of.



Italian

During the first semester, Prep children have participated in individual and group activities focusing on reproducing sounds, memorizing new words, giving short responses and understanding the Italian language at a simple level.

The different areas of music, gardening and cooking were used to enhance the diversity of the Italian program based on spontaneous challenges and situations.

The children have been exposed to listening to stories and singing songs that have covered a variety of topics including colours, numbers, sea animals, farm animals and musical instruments.

Social and Emotional

Cycle 1 children focus on Grace and Courtesy as a key part of their learning in this area. This can be categorised into areas of Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness and Decision Making.

Beginning with Grace and Courtesy such as greetings, work choices, respect towards others, their work, and environment as well as incorporating key social skills found in day to day interactions for example: interrupting, asking for help, offering help and inclusiveness. These skills continue to grow throughout their journey in Cycle 1 and to develop with the child as they build confidence and resilience as social beings.

