

INNOVATIVE PRODUCT/SERVICE



Global Indian International School Pte Ltd Singapore



Global Indian
International
School
Learning beyond boundaries

Organizational Description

Global Indian International School Pte Ltd, Singapore, (GIIS) is a privately owned independent Company offering K – 12 education in Singapore. Its Singapore schools are 'the most awarded' of Global Schools Foundation (GSF) which was established in 2002 at Mount Sophia. GIIS Singapore has 3 campuses; one each located at Queenstown, East Coast & Balestier.

Global Schools Foundation (GSF) is a pioneer in bringing Indian education to South East Asia. GSF has 20 schools spread over 7 countries - Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, India and UAE. Being a part of the GSF network of schools holds a synergistic advantage for the students, parents and faculty. Known for their learner-centric and skill-based curricula, GIIS schools offer holistic learning and personality development opportunities for students. Moving from a strength of 48 students in 2002 to 3,867 as on 30th November 2016 and expansion to 20 campuses across 7 countries is a testimony to GIIS's commitment to purpose and a result of unstinting support from an eminent Board, transparent governance, total involvement of stakeholders, care and concern for every child at GIIS and implementation of TQM in School education.

Name and Description of the Innovative Product/ Service

Name: *Global Montessori Plus (GMP)*

Global Montessori Plus (GMP) is a Unique, Innovative Educational Model for Kindergarten-age children i.e. from 2.5 years to 5 years. The model builds upon the world-renowned Montessori Method to encourage learning through the development of multiple facets in each child but with the addition of expertise and inputs from Kindergarten as well as latest accepted early childhood and pre-school philosophies.

For nearly 15 years, the school has set its focus on providing affordable and quality education to students. GIIS schools have adopted the cultural ideology of 'Schools That Learn' that makes each individual at GIIS an equal partner in the process of learning. One of the major benefits has been a holistic education valued by the best universities in the world who continue to offer GIIS graduates, placements at their prestigious campuses. Global Indian International School (GIIS) has an impressive track record, as our graduating students have received offers from prominent universities worldwide, year after year. In keeping with its purpose of holistic education and moulding of students through a multi-faceted programme, GIIS students are guided and counselled on matters concerning higher education by an in-house career counsellor. The guidance is

supplemented by on-campus information sessions, visits to university fairs, and workshops and exhibitions by visiting universities.

The Global Montessori Plus framework while not patented, is registered as a Trademark. As a policy, GIIS schools do not refuse admission to any child. However, this can pose a challenge as far as the learning outcomes are concerned. Also, GIIS has always put students' interests as paramount. With all of this in mind, the GMP framework was mooted and wholeheartedly embraced by our educators. Global Montessori Plus (GMP) was not created for commercialization. It has, however, raised the profile of GIIS as a preferred provider of high quality and all-round education thus leading to growth for GIIS. It has also brought multiple benefits to students who choose to study at Global Indian International School.

Highlights of Global Montessori Plus

- Specialised Montessori Labs for Nursery, K1, and K2. Ample number of Montessori materials for each child
- 'Accelerate' Programme is GMP's accelerated learning model for fluency in reading and writing
- Theme-based approach to learning for enhancing the Multiple Intelligences of each child
- Unique Toy Room concept emphasises the importance and value of play
- 'iCare' Programme to break the myth that only older kids can understand environmental issues
- Strong emphasis on fun outdoor activities
- Structured physical development programme
- Detailed music and movement curriculum for each class

What's the Plus

It is our unique tailored programme. With years of research and insight, we have customised Maria Montessori's method into a plan that adds more value to the original theory through an age-appropriate curriculum filled with opportunities to play and learn. From the fundamentals of formal learning to innovative learning tools, Global Montessori Plus provides value addition to Maria Montessori's method, making it a unique methodology that prepares the winner in each child.

Natural Thinkers PLUS Inspired Innovators

From personalities who changed the course of history to contemporary leaders and athletes, most were introduced at a very

early age into their respective fields through the simple act of playing. It helped them explore spatial relationships, hone motor capabilities, practice social skills and language, think creatively and gather information about the world through their senses. Playing is the most basic form of learning where children get exposed to new concepts and ideas in a healthy, joyful manner.

GIIS provides the fertile ground necessary for a child to explore, investigate and discover through an intuitive Montessori learning methodology. It adds to a child's innate instinct to learn in a self-paced, experiential environment.

A Holistic Approach PLUS Multi-faceted Growth

Children are instinctive learners. They thrive in an environment of structured play and hands-on experiences, which serve as a springboard for self-discovery. Global Montessori Plus is designed to nurture their inherent personality traits by addressing not one, but all intellectual capacities of the brain called Multiple Intelligences - which develop continually from childhood to adolescence, and from adolescence to adulthood. GMP focuses on the all-round growth of the child - physical, social, emotional and cognitive. By concentrating on the holistic development of the children we hone their Multiple Intelligences from the beginning of formal education to prepare them for the future.

GIIS based the creation of this Innovation on our Customers' needs and requirements. Based on general feedback received from parents about their concerns regarding current preschool methodologies and their suitability for the modern world, the school began working on an enhancement of the world-renowned Montessori Method. The school confirmed these needs through surveys and questionnaires and combined these desires with the educational expertise of our Academic leadership. By early 2010, this resulted in the creation of an enhanced programme that is different from what is offered for kindergarten children.

The Global Montessori Plus programme recognizes the uniqueness of each child. The age appropriate Learning environment enables children to reach their fullest potential. The main aim is to use pedagogy that will prepare children for smooth transition into the primary years as well as equip them with 21st Century skills, thus catering to all the domains of development. This innovative model aims to develop and nurture the right and left brain faculties in children in the age group of two and a half to four years, in a stress-free environment, thereby catering to the complete and comprehensive needs of an individual. This model has undergone two cycles of evaluation to prove its effectiveness and efficiency of learning outcomes of children.

The model comprises of 6 main pillars:

Our educators at GIIS Balestier were the first to study the differences between current practice and future needs. They felt there was room for enhancement to the existing Montessori and Kindergarten methodologies along with new breakthroughs of recent times. They felt this would not only address parents' concerns but also add immense value to the education that was then imparted in preschool. Starting early meant the behaviours would become integral in the

child at a young age.

Six Pillars of GMP

- 1) 'Excelerate' Programme - providing a learning guarantee for fluency in reading and writing

By the end of K2, each child is guaranteed to acquire complete fluency in reading and writing, to be equipped with a vocabulary bank of about 1300 words and the ability to write a few sentences on a given topic as well. This is in line with preparing the child for a seamless transition into grade 1, which is affiliated to the CBSE-i curriculum and that demands that the child is reading and writing.

- 2) Play and Learn - Unique Toy Room and Outdoor Activities

Learning also reaches an optimum level when the fundamental and educational needs of a child are met. When a child plays, both such needs are spontaneously met, and he learns. The Toy Room is equipped with a rich bank of attractive toys ranging from cuddly bears to puzzles or apparatus to construct something new. Thus apart from experiencing the sheer fun of playing with engaging toys (thereby meeting a child's fundamental needs), the child also has an opportunity to express his imagination and creativity, learns to think, solve problems, explore, select a course of action, experiment, cooperate, acquire motor skills as well as social skills (meeting his developmental needs). Here there is an emphasis also to free play, unlike guided play. Children are monitored but not directed. It is an opportunity for the teacher to observe the inclinations of each child unobtrusively.

- 3) i-Care' Programme - tackling the concept of global warming and other environmental issues in a multi-tiered form

The endeavour here is to develop in the young minds a consciousness about environmental issues of the world they live in. Such awareness, in turn, creates in the young minds a sense of care and responsibility towards addressing such matters. Thus, equipped with such knowledge, a child in our kindergarten takes his first stride towards being a global citizen in its truest sense. We feel it is never too early to begin to create awareness of environmental issues. To mention but a few such vital environmental problems we adapt topics such as 'Climate Change,' 'Animal Species Conservation,' 'Energy Conservation,' to the level of a preschool child by making the subject simple and relatable.

Each topic begins with creating awareness in the first place. It then progresses with action plans for children to work with and outreach programmes. It also incorporates parents' involvement as partners, essential for any learning process. The activities are meant for that particular age group and do not go into in-depth explanations. As the child grasps more concepts, the teachers build upon this, encouraging students to become ambassadors for the environment.

- 4) Multiple Intelligences (MI) Theme-based approach to learning to enhance the multi-faceted intelligence of each child

Howard Gardner, a Professor at Harvard, first proposed Multiple Intelligences (MI) model in his 1983 book "Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences." It is now widely accepted that a child is born with faculties of multiple intelligences, of which some are predominant. Learning happens at its optimum level in a child when the intelligence(s) predominant in the child is tapped, resulting in an all-round growth which will stand in good stead for the child's future.

Theme based lessons in our kindergarten are designed to utilise all the faculties of intelligence. Thus each child in the class learns best when the intellect predominant in him gets drawn out during delivery of lessons. The endeavour through these Multiple Intelligences (MI) focused lessons is not just to sharpen the child's predominant intelligence but also to provide for the other intelligences in the child. Every lesson plan has activities that help tap or enhance these aptitudes. This approach ensures that no child's need is deprived of the opportunity to become the best that he or she can be.

- 5) Value based learning Children need to be guided in the right values from an early age to ensure they learn and exhibit acceptable social behaviours along with being able to use their discernment to make correct decisions. Values acquired at a tender age imparted in a conducive environment and reinforced through later years, persist throughout life.

GLIS believes that universal values like kindness, honesty, punctuality and discipline are essential for the holistic growth of every child. Such value and ethics are imparted through a structured programme, wherein one value is addressed every month.

- 6) Oratory Skill development Communication is the key to success hence Oratory Skills play a significant role in the child's development. Building strong communication skills and abilities to express are crucial to shaping confidence in children. Through a wide array of propriety events and programmes, students get numerous opportunities to hone their language and oratory skills. Beginning with simple communication techniques and with the aid of music and movement, we help the child to coordinate and express their thoughts in a coherent way. Children at GLIS schools are allowed to explore all their potential capabilities in a welcoming and nurturing atmosphere so that they develop these skills at a level where their creativity and ability have a chance to develop to the fullest possible extent.

The foremost aim is not just to enhance the predominant intelligence of a child, but also stimulate all the other intelligences to enhance learning along with improvement in levels of performance. By offering Global Montessori Plus (GMP) at GLIS schools, GSF has been able to appeal to parents who wish to facilitate the holistic development of their child. Montessori schools were the first in the world to offer child-sized materials for their students, along with teaching young children to do things for themselves back in 1907. The world has changed exponentially and things that were revolutionary over 100 years ago, are now commonplace. Hence, an enrichment of a sound and still relevant idea was required.

Schools normally offer early childhood education in the normal Montessori Method. While this still remains one of the most influential and widely practised systems in the world, there can be fluctuations in its implementation between different areas and schools. Unfortunately, there is also no way to limit the use of the name "Montessori." It falls to parents, who must carefully research, perhaps observe a classroom in operation, in order to choose a real Montessori school for their child. At GLIS, we were confident we could address these significant concerns by adding certain critical facets to the original Montessori programme to make it easy for parents to know what to expect, what the benefits will be for their child and what areas of their child's development would be enhanced. By offering such a wide range of benefits across all 8 dimensions of the child's intelligence, our academic leadership has been able to outshine the competition. This can be seen from the several awards our children consistently win at National and International forums.

The idea was born out of a genuine concern to improve the education offered to our young students. With years of research and insight, we managed to customise Maria Montessori's Method into a programme that adds more value to the original theory and practice, through an age-appropriate curriculum filled with opportunities to play and learn. From the fundamentals of formal learning to innovative learning tools, Global Montessori Plus provides value addition to Maria Montessori's Method, making it a unique methodology that prepares the winner in each child.

We feel our programme is a Power-Packed one. We believe that by starting young and allowing a child to dream, develop, discover and then deliver, we are eventually not just helping the child but through the actions of our students, we could help the world. The Montessori way of education is to allow children to be children and have them discover the wonders of the world through their own eyes. Our GMP programme builds on this strength and takes it much further.

Power to Dream

It is claimed that "every child born is a genius and we take the first seven years to de-genius the child." This happens because the child is denied the power to dream. Dreaming is not 'building castles in the air' in an unstructured mental platform. It is a process by which the child is able to see, observe, wonder, relate, connect, imagine, perceive and conceptualise newer ways of an object, a concept or an issue. It helps the child to unravel the unfathomed depths of knowledge and position that knowledge in newer domains. This helps the learner to enhance the faculties of imagination, reconstruction, creation and communication. The curriculum has been designed in such a manner these faculties are nurtured and nourished in the young minds. Our Global Montessori Plus (GMP) programme enables this.

Power to Discover

The power of discovery is a basic human urge. From time immemorial humankind has exhibited a deep inquisitiveness to understand and explore the nature around – both the physical and otherwise. A child always asks the questions – why, what, how and when? The search for answers to these questions helps the child to observe, analyse,

question and experiment. This leads to laying strong foundations for creativity. The curriculum facilitates the process of discovery through an inter-active teaching-learning process where the freedom to question becomes the nucleus of learning in a classroom. Our Global Montessori Plus (GMP) programme enables this through its pillars.

Power to Develop

Growth is an ongoing activity. It requires continuous engagement with knowledge and skills, seen and unseen, known and the unknown. Children engaged in continuous exploration are able to create their own ideas, perceptions, and thoughts. Creative and Critical thinking become active learning instruments. Further, the pedagogy enables the learner to integrate the ideas and thoughts and synthesize them into a newer perspective. These experiences facilitate the child to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of enterprise. Our Global Montessori Plus (GMP) programme enables this through its pillars.

Power to Deliver

The diverse intellectual and emotional skills acquired by the child help in identifying the problems, seek solutions, take decisions, communicate views and provide leadership in the given system. In a global environment that promotes competitiveness, the profile of a child is decided by the tackling of challenging situations. Academic performance is not the only indicator of achievement level. The urge to achieve and the ability to lead are critical for future societies. The curriculum envisages incorporating such life-skills and competencies through the six GMP pillars.

The Global Montessori Plus (GMP) programme framework is now implemented across all the GIIS schools worldwide. In the last eight years, over 7000 students have successfully completed this programme and immense benefits have been observed in the overall achievements of our students. We are on the cusp of rolling out our Global Montessori Plus (GMP) programme to a wider world audience in the near future through a dedicated GMP school located at Mountbatten Road in Singapore. With eight years of excellent results, we feel this is one of our unique offerings and are now ready to share it with the world with solid results to back it up. By ensuring that in addition to the Global Montessori Plus (GMP) programme, the GIIS 9 (Nine) Gems™ dynamic framework of holistic learning is incorporated in all our schools, we are confident of meeting the changing needs of every growing child and his/her evolving personality.

Education at GIIS is not just about academics, but a fun-filled process where students explore a plethora of exciting subjects through active participation in knowledge clubs. At GIIS, we lay a lot of emphasis on all-round development of our students – not just the mental aspects but equally so, the physical. Sports, both outdoor and indoor, music and art form a vital part of the learning experience.

Our Global Montessori Plus (GMP) programme is the starting point for the exciting journey of lifelong exploration for our students. •

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