



About our Playgroup

The Serendipity Trust Playgroup offers two weekly sessions at Serendipity House at 32 Cripps Road, Galle. We meet to have fun with our children in a friendly Montessori inspired environment which has been especially designed for young children aged 18 months to 4 years.

We have a Group Leader with Montessori qualifications & experience who develops the activities and runs each session. She offers guidance to parents and children on how to use the materials. Her assistance will be available until December to ensure the groups are well supported as they get established.

The Playgroup Environment

Our Playgroup environment provides a range of graduated activities that suit the unfolding developmental stages of children from confident walkers through to approximately 4 years. Children can pursue tasks at their own pace and independently with just a little help from Mum, Dad or other caregivers. Our Playgroup Facilitator, who is a qualified and experienced Montessori Educator, is available at sessions to guide and support individuals and the group through a range of fun and creative play opportunities.

Careful understanding of the development of infants enables us to create a place that meets their needs. It is a parent-infant community where young children can engage in activities that assist their psychomotor skills, language acquisition, growing independence, and their understanding of the world.

Playgroup Activities

As young children's attention span is relatively short, we adjust our activities on the day to ensure children enjoy them and gain a rewarding experience. Normal activities enjoyed at all playgroups such as free play, craft, singing and stories are readily available, however the program emphasizes the following:

- **Practical Life Activities**, such as sweeping, pouring and scrubbing, are very popular with children and help foster their independence. Even though children in the playgroup are very young, they are encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility for the environment by tidying away their work.
- **Sensory Experiences:** These activities allow exploration of the senses by isolating and focusing on one area at a time.
- **Language:** These experiences help to develop listening and speaking skills, prewriting and pre reading activities.
- **Music and Movement:** Song and dance, use of musical instruments.
- **Cultural Studies:** Learning about our world- biology, geography, history as well as art and craft.



We encourage self-directed learning through play. During the session, children can choose the materials they want to work with. Parents are encouraged to sit with their child while they explore the activities.

The activities are especially chosen to foster concentration, coordination and self-esteem. It is wonderful to see usually energetic toddlers sitting quietly with their parents concentrating hard on whatever activity they are trying to master. It might be pairing colourful buttons, sorting miniature animals into groups or using the practical life materials to wash, clean and dry tables. The children sit down for morning or afternoon tea during the session. Parents get a chance to have a chat with each other and a cuppa themselves. Everyone can enjoy shared activities like singing, music and story time. These help young children experience being part of a community.

When joining the playgroup

Be Committed!

This is fun for the kids so let's make it a priority to get together. Please give us a text, call or email the day before a session if you are unable to make it.

Get Involved!

You are very welcome to arrange an activity or contribute some play items or materials

Make Suggestions & Share Feedback!

Please suggest ideas for adding activities for the kids to participate in during playgroup. Not happy with how things are going? Just let us know.

Reach Out to Other Members!

Playgroup is a scheduled time for us all to get together, but hopefully it will also lead to friendships and social opportunities outside of the weekly time slots for the children and also their parents

Ground Rules:

- Tell us the night before if you cannot come (e-mail info@serendipitytrust.com)
- Don't come if you or your child is sick
- A parent or guardian must be present and actively involved in each session
- Please encourage your child to tidy up after each activity. We appreciate your help to tidy up after each session.



Snack Time

Each week we have a shared snack time. Please bring *healthy* snacks, such as fruit or cheese or crackers, for your children to share. Please don't bring sugary items.

Suitable Clothing

Your child is bound to get messy while cooking in our 'Mud Kitchen', splashing in our water play area and creating with arts and craft activities. Rather than restrict their freedom to play, please make sure they wear old clothing or bring an art smock/apron. A change of clothing is likely to be necessary before the session is through! A sun hat for outdoor play is recommended.

Session times

Our Playgroup is currently held twice a week on Tuesdays (2.30pm to 4.30pm) and Fridays (9am to 11am). You can attend one or both sessions. Bookings are essential. We appreciate your weekly attendance as each group is limited to 15 children. Further sessions may be introduced as the interest in these groups grows.

Fees

Our fees are 200/- per session per child (siblings under 9 months of age can attend free of charge). The Serendipity Trust (Guarantee) Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation; your contribution helps us cover some of the program's expenses such as art materials, new toys and games, tea/milk and administration expenses such as the salary of the Playgroup Leader. Monthly payments in advance are appreciated to avoid money handling at each session.

Bookings

Please help us to spread the word to any families who would enjoy this experience.

Contact Serendipity Trust on 091 2248086 or info@serendipitytrust.com to register.