



# The Pedagogy of Talent Akua School

*“In this way life is not only one gift, but a task of its own, an original project. And here the creative work more than a moment, will also be flow of being, as this is constitutive of the personal being. This requires an environment which allows and provokes a personal and therefore creative expression, free of blockages.” (P. Faure)*



## **Pedagogy of Talent at Akua**

### **Personalised education**

Employing a structure based on the balanced development of mind (knowing), hands (doing) and heart (being).

### **Pedagogical model**

Akua combines various educational methodologies (Montessori, Reggio Emilia ...), integrating a relationship of interdependence with nature and promoting unity, respecting and accompanying the child's individual learning processes and enhancing the development of the talents of each child.

### **Pedagogical practice**

Using a deep understanding of each child, through love and observation, applying the findings of neuroscience and providing continuous training for the educators.

Where emotional accompaniment, multiple intelligences and languages are omnipresent elements in all areas of Akua learning.

With homely, safe learning environments that promote meaningful learning and creative work through the use of a wide variety of specialised materials, real experiences and social relationships. The school has a ratio of 8-10 children per educator.

We offer the optimal conditions for each student to live and learn comfortably and to develop to his/her highest potential.

The curriculum integrates basic skills, life skills, self-management for learning, community participation and the assimilation of healthy habits.

Akua is a non-faith school.

### **Languages**

We offer a multicultural education with a communicative and experiential approach, integrating the parallel teaching of English, Catalan and Spanish in all facets of the learning process.



## Preschool - 3 to 6 years old (multigrade / mixed age group)

During Preschool, children develop skills through the use of their hands.

The educators accompany each child in:

- Forming his/her personality
- Developing his/her skills
- Gaining their physical independence
- Getting to know the world around them by exploring and experimenting
- Strengthening positive self-esteem
- Integrating healthy living habits
- Creating interpersonal relationships
- Coexisting peacefully
- Gaining the ability to identify and regulate their emotions

The activities are carried out in a specially prepared environment that responds to the needs of the children, carefully structured with clear limits that promote freedom and organised into areas of development with specific materials and learning experiences that facilitate particular aspects of learning.

Each day includes different moments in which the children play a lead role in their own learning:

- **Welcome:** the child is received by his/her educator, having the time and accompaniment that he/she needs to say goodbye to his/her family.
- **Personal work:** whether indoors or outdoors, each child chooses the activity he/she wants to do at his/her own pace and learning needs, using Montessori materials and development activities.
- **Group work:** the child participates in group activities and projects such as music, psychomotricity, art, permaculture and yoga.
- **Circle:** during the transition between different activities, exercises of oral expression, of movement and silence are carried out; sharing, songs and rounds. These activities are alternated in all three languages.
- **Food:** each child collaborates actively during mealtimes, integrating new habits and developing social skills. Akua has an eco-friendly catering service.
- **Free play time:** with a natural outdoor environment, as well as several motor and sensorial resources at his/her disposal, each child learns to create and recreate, together.



- **Craft workshops:** during the year the children explore different trades and professions, getting to know the tools, developing new skills and exploring their own talents.
- **Story time:** The day at Akua concludes with the reading of a story. In the course of the week the same story is read in different languages.

We have a team of multilingual educators; each child approaches learning how to read and write in their mother-tongue.

### **Primary School - 6 to 12 years old (2 multigrade / mixed age groups)**

Primary School is structured into two stages of Primary education. The first stage for 6 to 9 year olds and the second stage for 9 to 12 year olds, where the development of willpower, feeling and thinking is key.

Educators accompany each child in:

- The organisation of his personality favouring autonomous thinking and promoting the use of creative imagination
- The evolution of the sense of justice
- The development of social skills
- Managing emotions
- Constructive interaction
- The peaceful resolution of conflicts and the passion to learn

Active learning is promoted, from concrete to abstract thinking, during every moment of the school day:

- In **personal work**, the child works at their own pace, integrating new learning and expanding their knowledge with the use of Montessori materials, work guides, reference materials and research projects. With the accompaniment of a tutor, they plan and self-assess their work.
- In **group work**, they perform different projects and activities in mathematics, literacy, creative writing, English, physical education, music, yoga, circular dances, permaculture, art, body language, country walks, all in a collaborative way.



- Through the **weekly meetings**, children are able to participate actively in the care and transformation of their immediate environment as well as make group decisions about things that affect them on a daily basis.
- In the course of the school year, a child can choose different **workshops** according to their interests in particular trades or professions, developing new skills, putting his skills into action, and exploring and enhancing his own talents.
- They will also participate in, and help organise various **school outings** for cultural and educational purposes.

## Languages

Our linguistic project is designed to respond to individual needs and encourages creative writing, the joy of reading and communicative skills in all three languages from an experiential perspective.

We have a team of multilingual educators and many contexts which encourage multilingual oral communication. In the first stage of primary education, written communication in Catalan and Spanish is prioritised, except for children with native English; In the second stage of primary, more focus is placed on written communication in English for everyone.

## Assessment

Assessment is continuous and formative, promoting self-assessment and peer assessment; Through daily scientific observations, sharing, project portfolios as well as more formal recording of the elements and skills learned (Rubrics). Each term, families receive a report of their child's progress.

## Services

Eco-friendly Catering: families can choose an organic and Km0 catering service or bring a packed lunch from home.

School Bus: a private school bus service is offered to families based in Barcelona or the Baix Llobregat area.

## Spaces

The school has 3.500 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space and one hectare of natural green space with fruit trees. We are 10 minutes walk away from a natural forest.

The school welcomes and encourages the involvement of families who want to actively participate. The school grounds are also available for activities after school hours, such as conferences, workshops, events, extracurricular activities, etc.