

WHO ARE WE

Caracol ao Sol began as a result of weekly parent child gatherings of the Portuguese and foreigners of the region. We are a non profit organization, inspired by Steiner/Waldorf education, which defends liberty in children's development, for the first 7 years, the senses are the main focus, over the intellectual.

At Caracol ao Sol, we accept children from 2 to 6 years old, and our aim is to integrate all families of our local community into alternative education. This education is given in a school, which objective is that of the realization of Human potential, and of integrating all aspects of its being.

We try to recreate the cosy environment of a home as much as possible. The children co-exist in a group with a relaxed and respectful atmosphere, full of affection and care. The presence of a teacher works as a model to imitate, guiding them in a natural rhythm (daily, weekly and seasonal), that helps them to locate themselves in time, gaining confidence and trust. We let them play free (this being the work of the children) offering them simple and natural materials that stimulate fantasy, and rich and truthful sensory perceptions. Also craft activities like weaving, drawing, painting, bee wax shaping, kneading and baking bread, and so on, are part of our garden.

We value regular contact with nature, allowing children to run, jump, get wet, hide, climb, swing, fall and get up, build with rocks and sticks, feel the wind, the rain...

We offer children a space to meet children with different nationalities. This way they will learn from an early age to understand and share cultures and languages. At this age, while playing with each other, they easily learn other languages besides their mother tongue. However, we are based on the Portuguese language and culture.

In this kindergarten, we look for cultivating the feeling of admiration that children have towards nature and the world, as a way of keeping their interest in learning alive.

We are a kindergarten open for all. A kindergarten that embraces everyone's effort, creativity and determination, as the strength to our/your project...

Welcome to Caracol ao Sol!

WHERE WE ARE



We are in the old primary school of Barril de Alva that has so kindly received us. It is a central meeting point for many families of our kindergarten, and also the place where many regional roads meet.

This space is special because it makes us feel at home. Simple, full of light, open, taken care of and with harmonious surroundings.

A place that permits our project to grow.

Caracol ao Sol

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Caracol ao sol

jardim waldorf

Open for Registrations

Opening on 7th of October 2013



WHAT IS WALDORF PEDAGOGY?



Founded by the Austrian Rudolf Steiner in 1919 in Stuttgart, Germany, the Waldorf pedagogy was initially for the children of the Waldorf Astoria cigarette factory workers.

The ideals and methods are, even today, considered revolutionary and have distinguished this pedagogy from the very start.

Nowadays, over a thousand schools exist worldwide that work with this particular way of teaching.

Even though having begun in Germany, these schools want to incorporate and encourage the culture of each country.

The conception and development of the human being, the freedom in the development of children, and emphasis on the senses instead of the intellect in the first 7 years of life, are what the Waldorf pedagogy finds most important.

The child goes through different phases that each has their own characteristics and necessities that, like their individuality, are respected.

Domestic, artistic and craft related activities (which include bee wax molding, sowing colorful cloths, kneading and baking bread, working with natural materials, and working in the garden), living the rhythms of the year by seasonal celebrations and

contact with nature, fairytales that fill the imagination and creativity, and a lot of movement, make up the day to day at the kindergarten. This way preparing the children for primary school and, later on, entering society as active and conscious adults.

According to the Waldorf pedagogy these activities develop the senses, stimulate the imagination, vitality and joy for living, and reinforce the bond with, and respect for, nature.

A strong multicultural approach, gives more autonomy to the child, as responsibility, ethnic conscience and respect for diversity. This pedagogy includes/values greatly the scientific, artistic and aesthetic areas.

Waldorf education is the largest independent pedagogical movement worldwide, and is recognized by UNESCO.

This pedagogy was introduced in Portugal by Ana Abreu, founder of the kindergarten: Jardim-de-Infância S. Jorge, em Alfragide, in the year 1984.

Bibliografia:

"A Pedagogia Waldorf - Caminho para um ensino mais humano", Rudolf Lenz, Antroposófica, 2009,
"A Questão Pedagógica como Questão Social", Rudolf Steiner, Antroposófica, FEWGB, 2009,
"O Homem no Limiar - o desafio do autodesenvolvimento", Bernard Lievgoed, Antroposófica, 2006.



SCHEDULE

We work 5 days a week from 9h00 to 15h30. There is the possibility of only 3 days a week (mon, wed, fri). Complementary schedule from 15h30 to 17h00, added value of 20 Euros per month.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR ASSOCIATION?

Any person, natural or legal can be a member of our association. The yearly fee is 36 Euros or 3 Euros monthly.

REGISTRATIONS

Registrations are now open for Caracol ao Sol. The registration costs 30 Euros that will be deducted in the first monthly fee.

MONTHLY FEE

5 days/week: 150,00 Euros
3 days/week: 110,00 Euros



As we are a non-profit organization open to all, we want to support children coming from financially less fortunate families. This way, we are giving the opportunity to two kids to attend our kindergarten for a small amount of money, thus looking for alternative ways to finance and cover their expenses. Anyone interested can donate more than the amounts mentioned above in order to help covering these situations.