

## **Casa School, Rotterdam, Netherlands**

Dr. Bharati Bakshi Vice President and Ms. Ranjana Sengupta Secretary Nanritam had, in the course of a fund raising cum exposure trip to USA, Canada and other European countries, visited a model Montessori school at Rotterdam, Netherlands where Dr. Maria Montessori had actually introduced the system. They were shown around the school by Ms. Tessa Wessel, the Principal of the School herself. The visitors were pleasantly surprised to note that in spite of their somewhat unfamiliar attire, and different looks, the children remained engrossed in whatever they were busy with and were not the least distracted. The activities the children were busy with were not the kind of things we allow our children to do here. Some of them were chopping vegetables with a sharp knife while others poured water from a jar into a bottle, activities that help in improving concentration explained the Principal. Others were laying tables, folding napkins, identifying spices and herbs, searching iron chips from a box full of saw dust with the help of a magnet. Children climbed up and down trees to get acquainted with the art and science of risk taking. Others coloured and painted and some played with sands. Children were free to choose their activities, and Tessa described it as "Guided Freedom".



Two teachers with an attendant supervised a group of 45 - 50 students, helping them out only when they needed it.

Tessa believed that the Montessori system really helped in shaping the child's attitude in a right way. She also has a very soft corner for teachers from India who, according to her had more tenderness and affection than their western counterparts. They spent more than three hours in the school without realising how fast the time had passed.

Here is a set of pictures of what the Nanritam team saw in the school.

### **Google photo link for this school to be attached**

<https://photos.google.com/u/3/album/AF1QipOQSxFID76IMWVxo6OSwpxaglt0bk1gXnMOfGQY>