



**Kindergarten**

**Bella Riva**

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## How the Kindergarten Bella Riva was born

Once upon a time there was a Kindergarten TIE Group — a group of 1993 MBA participants who thought it would be a good idea to set up an IMD Kindergarten. So, in January of that year, they started planning what was to become the “Bella Riva”.

The idea was excellent, and although it appeared utopian at first, it gradually and slowly developed and began to take shape.

As you can well imagine, it was not an easy task: the team needed to find a room, furniture, toys (a lot of toys!), and... of course... the official authorization from the SPJ (“Service Protection de la Jeunesse”/ Swiss Authority for Child Protection). There were months of work and meetings between MBAs, authorities and the IMD personnel department.

Eventually, they overcame ALL these difficulties, but there was still one missing element: the children! So they brought in their own, as well as those of the other MBA participants, and gathered them so they could play and have fun together.

It was summer by then, and mothers began by taking turns looking after the children. They contributed much devotion, energy and good will, but soon realized they would need the support of a professional. A Kindergarten teacher was hired by IMD, and in October 1993 everything was finally in place. And guess what? ... it was a success!

Over 15 years later, more than 150 MBA participants and their children have benefited from the Kindergarten. And it continues to grow. It is now open 5 mornings a week and includes a playground on the IMD campus.

Many thanks to the MBA participants who founded the “Bella Riva” Kindergarten.



The “Bella Riva” Kindergarten - a space where children can experience a friendly, social environment.

## What is the kindergarten all about?

Fabienne Baumgartner, the Kindergarten manager, is joined by Gwendoline to look after the children of staff and participants and ensure that they have fun in a secure and bi-lingual environment.



Hello, I'm Fabienne Baumgartner. I'm 35 and live in Lausanne. I have 15 years experience teaching children and have been at the IMD kindergarten since March 2010.

I travel whenever I can - understanding other ways of living is a wonderful experience - and in my free-time I give Argentine tango lessons with my partner.

I'm looking forward to meeting you and your children in our colorful kindergarten!

Hello, my name's Gwendoline Gottofrey. I'm 21 and live in the village St-Cierges. After getting my Federal Certificate of Capacity in education in 2010, I worked as a substitute teacher and then went on a backpack trip in Asia where I volunteered in a hospital for poor people in Varanasi (India).

I've been working with Fabienne as a kindergarten teacher since August 2011, and in my free time, I'm also an athletic coach for boys from 7 to 10 years old.



## Role of the teachers

The teachers are the stable presence who help each child to feel safe and at ease. They have regular contact with the parents to share details about everyday life at the Kindergarten (including any potential problems). They are employed by IMD and answer to the SPJ, but their most important functions are:

- Understanding each child and respecting his/her rhythm
- Listening to him/her and encouraging his/her relationship with the other children
- Helping each child to feel at ease and safe
- Establishing limits to ensure healthy development
- Communicating openly with the parents



## Pedagogical objectives

- Develop children's social skills and encourage mutual respect
- Develop autonomy in different aspects of everyday life
- Develop children's ability to communicate and express feelings, needs and wishes
- Develop broader understanding through educational/observation games and off-campus trips
- Develop children's imagination and creativity through activities such as painting, drawing, modeling and puppets, and pretend games such as dolls, cooking, etc.

## A typical morning

08:00 – 09:00	Arrival / Free time activities such as painting, play dough, sand, pretend games
09:15 – 09:45	Meeting time (singing, talking, stories, educational games, ...)
09:45 – 10:00	Snack-time
10:00 – 11:30	Outdoor trips, gym, specific activities
11:30 – 12:00	Departure, free play, story-time, feedback to parents

## Policy

The kindergarten welcomes children between two and six years of age for a minimum of two mornings per week, and for more than three if the kindergarten is not full. In accordance with Swiss law, the number of places available depends on the age of the children and are especially limited for those under 2 ½.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Total number of spaces	10 children	12 children	12 children	12 children	12 children
Age of children	2½ to 5 years old	2 to 5 years old	4 to 6 years old	2 to 5 years old	2 to 5 years old

**Opening Hours** Monday to Friday 8:00 - 12:00

## Holidays\*



- 4 weeks in July
- 1 week in Autumn (during public school holidays)
- 2 weeks between Christmas and January
- 1 week at Easter
- Official national holidays, including Friday of Ascension weekend.

\*The exact dates are given at the beginning of each year.

**Fees** CHF 25 per morning

## Monthly Commitment

- 1 session per week: CHF 100
- 2 sessions per week: CHF 200
- 3 sessions per week: CHF 300
- 4 sessions per week: CHF 400
- 5 sessions per week: CHF 500



## Conditions

The fees must be paid by the end of the due month. Either party can end the contract at the end of a month by giving one month's notice in writing (email to the kindergarten).

No reduction will be given in case of non-attendance due to illness, special absences or holidays that are not within the official Kindergarten holidays.

## Insurance

Parents are requested to have health and accident insurance as well as a "Third Party Liability Insurance" for their children. The Kindergarten will not be held responsible for any accidents, however should an accident occur, the teachers write a report for insurance purposes.

## Illness And Non Attendance

In order to protect the health of the others, the Kindergarten cannot admit children who are unwell. In case of non-attendance, please contact the Kindergarten by 9 o'clock.

Tel. number: 021 618 06 40 Email: [kindergarten@imd.ch](mailto:kindergarten@imd.ch)

## 2011 Kindergarten participant testimonials

### Diana McAllister, Colombian



I am so happy that my daughter, Maria, could attend the IMD Kindergarten. It is a place where the kids really develop and learn many good things: they read books, sing songs, go to parks and cultural places, among other things. It is an environment where kids can be in touch with the real world and is also a very cozy place where both kids and parents are always welcome.

The kindergarten team is conscientious about giving you feedback about your child, including the way they interact with other kids and their behavior in the kindergarten. Even better, they also inform you about the activities they will have: birthdays, special celebrations and more. It was a really nice experience for Maria as well as for me as a mother.

I congratulate IMD for thinking of the wellbeing of the MBA families with children and giving us an incredible opportunity. I also congratulate the kindergarten team because they became an important part of my daughter's development this year. (This is a photo of Maria with Kindergarten Manager, Fabienne)

### Sevinch Ibragimova, Uzbek

Hi, my name is Sevinch. I'm 3½ years old and I'm from Uzbekistan. Before coming to Lausanne we lived in Kiev, Ukraine.

My first day at the kindergarten was also my Dad's first day at IMD. It was my first kindergarten experience at all. I was nervous, because I spoke neither French nor English. I spoke only Russian. But when my Mom came to pick me up, I didn't want to go home, because I fell in love with our kindergarten and teachers.

I got many friends, it was so nice to play with them. Also, I started speaking French in kindergarten and English at my Daddy's school with Mommy's friends.

At the kindergarten I like everything: singing French and English songs, playing outside, our snack time, our trips to the farm, museum, beach and many playgrounds. I love our parties, especially the Halloween. I enjoyed so much wearing my Mini Mouse costume and collecting candies.

I love my kindergarten so much that I asked my Daddy to find job in Lausanne. I will miss my kindergarten, my teachers and my friends.



### Marieke Gille, Dutch



Our daughter Daantje joined the Kindergarten after the summer break (Daddy was a full-time MBA) and enjoyed every minute she was there.

At the start, the teachers took care of an introduction process by gradually extending the hours per morning. For Daantje this really helped: slowly getting used to this new environment where they don't speak her mother tongue. The teachers really focused on Daantje and what she needed in this big change environment and we received feedback every morning about the activities, how she was doing and the specific (often hilarious) things that had occurred.

Fully adapted and happy, Daantje flourished helped by the small and cozy group of kids and the structured program during the mornings. There was a nice focus on learning to become more independent, like stimulating potty training

(even when Daantje was not there yet) and bricolage (handicrafts) to explore new things. Slowly Daantje picked up English and French and didn't need her teddy anymore (which for us is quite a milestone!).

