


Monica Valrani, CEO Ladybird Nursery & early Learning Centre

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Profiles

MONICA VALRANI

CEO, LADYBIRD
NURSERY & EARLY
LEARNING CENTRE

Monica Valrani is dedicated to the pursuit of educational excellence for young children. Having herself received a gold-standard education at one of the UK's leading independent schools, Monica and her team are committed to setting solid foundations for children to become happy, confident and independent lifelong learners.

She's currently CEO of the ever-popular Ladybird Nursery. A purpose-built Ladybird Early Learning Centre is currently under construction, scheduled to open this month.

▲ **Congratulations on the nursery! What vision are you looking to pursue and how different will it be from other nurseries in Dubai?**

Thanks! Ladybird Early Learning Centre is on track to become the first LEED gold-certified early learning centre in the Middle East due to its 'green' building initiatives.

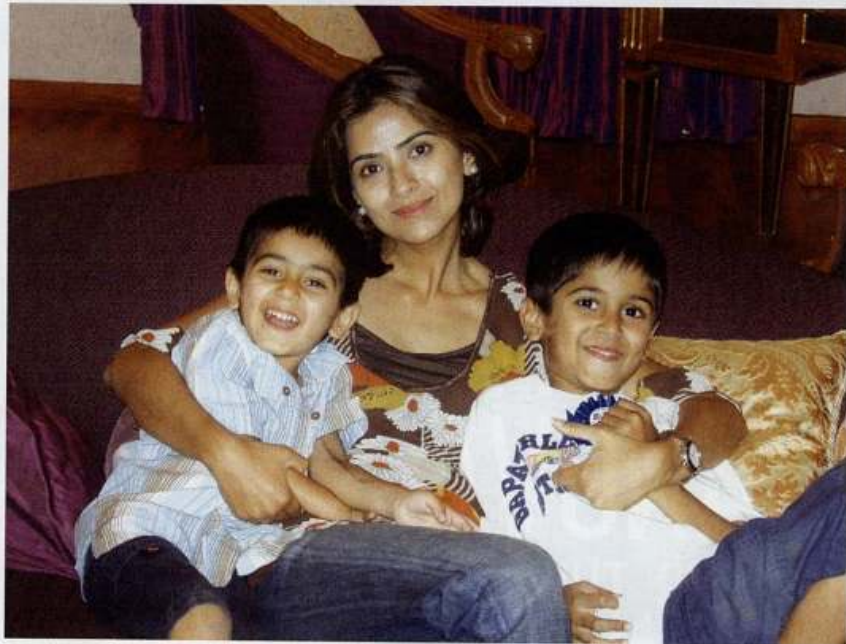
Several nurseries in the UAE are based in villas which were originally made for residential purposes and have now been converted into nurseries. However, Ladybird Early Learning Centre is a purpose-built, ground-floor-only facility which has been thoughtfully designed and constructed with environmental sustainability, reduction of carbon footprint and safety firmly in mind.

For example, throughout the building process, 25% of the nursery's construction material was recycled, with 25% of the actual construction material itself having been imported within an 800 km radius, thereby saving on carbon emissions. This is in addition to more green policies we have been pursuing.

Our young pupils are the planet's custodians of tomorrow, so it's essential to teach them the importance of conserving resources, especially water in a location such as Dubai.

▲ **Childhood education seems like a venture which would come naturally to a mother; what would you advise mums who are looking to pursue the same?**

Anybody pursuing a career in early years 'education, whether it be as an owner or a professional, needs to be passionate about the field. If financial returns are a



consideration in making the decision, I'd advise against entering this field.

Whether a mother or not, one must appreciate that the field of early years' education is a serious responsibility and, therefore, really needs to be dedicated and committed.

▲ **How have your children inspired your career?**

My children have played a crucial role in my pursuit of my dreams at Ladybird. Both of them went to nurseries which are now part of the Ladybird Nursery chain in Dubai.

Seeing the difference that a Ladybird education made for my children has prompted me to acquire the nursery from the founder in 2007. In fact, my younger son's teacher in 2005, Priscilla Palmer, is the current principal of our Jumeirah branch and I think of him every time I see her!

▲ **Which aspects of your children's education made you keen on seeking to manage a nursery of your own?**

Both my children have been to nurseries which were greatly influenced by the Montessori philosophy and I was, and still am, a great believer in its benefits.

I am a qualified Montessori teacher and love the Montessori ethos of treating each child as an individual. When I was able to see first-hand the benefits that a Ladybird education had on my children's natural development, it was my dream to own the nursery one day and continue running it based on the same ethos on which it was founded in 1996.

▲ **Would you advise mothers to go after their career dreams or stay home to take care of the children?**

I would advise mothers that the choices they are faced with when it comes to pursuing a career or staying at home are not going to be easy ones. There's no right answer and any choice made in this regard is a choice we should all respect. Being a mother is in itself a tremendous achievement for any woman!