

“Be open to ideas through the experience of others,
recognise your own skills and delegate the rest”.

Jan Driver, The Beehive



“I’ve always wanted to run my own business so when the owner of a Montessori school approached me, this was an opportunity I just had to take. At first I said no, but the more I thought about it I realised it was a wonderful opportunity to run my own business, balance family life, and provide a valuable, high quality service for the community – whilst doing something I really believed in.

I knew I wanted some business advice and heard about Business Link through a contact. I got in touch and was lucky enough to find a ‘Women into Business’ course about to begin. The participants were at different stages, some came with an idea, others were already successfully trading, but everyone made a valuable contribution. We shared skills and encouragement and I left with the confidence that I was making my business happen.

The Montessori Method of teaching introduces each child to new skills at their own pace. I put my own mark on the business by producing a website, optional school sweatshirts and re-designing the school logo. There’s a tremendous amount of paperwork surrounding childcare provision and employing people. New ownership triggered an Ofsted inspection, the staff and parents were superb and we rightly received an excellent report. I’ve learned to accept support from people as they offer it, like the friend who does my payroll and accounts for free, the web designer I met on the ‘Women into Business’ course and the friend who helps with the school-run every morning.

It’s been a massive learning curve. I still have ambitions for future growth but, for now I want to be the best at what I do today. When I walk into work I feel a real sense of satisfaction and I love the feeling that ‘this is mine!’

For further information on setting up a business,
contact Business Link on 0845 600 9006 /
www.businesslink.gov.uk or find your local Enterprise
Gateway at www.enterprisegatewaymagazine.co.uk



ELEMENTS OF BUSINESS SUCCESS:

INVOLVEMENT > giving of yourself,
feeling engaged, accepting support

Jan Driver, The Beehive at Shalden, Hampshire
www.beehive-alton.co.uk

Jan took over the Beehive Montessori Nursery School in a Hampshire village eighteen months ago. It is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and the Montessori Schools Association and has recently gained a very good Ofsted report; an improvement on the previous one.

INVOLVEMENT