

Infant Toddler Program



ROCKINGHAM
Montessori SCHOOL

WHY MONTESSORI PLAYGROUP?

Our Infant Toddler Program is for children aged between 1-3 years of age and is the ideal way for your family to experience 'Montessori philosophy' and practice, providing a gentle transition to the Children's House.

Even if you are uncertain about your child's future educational path, attending our Montessori playgroup is a chance to meet other like-minded parents and be guided by a trained Montessori educator in observing your child and offering them the experiences they are ready for.

They acquire the culture and language into which they have been born. It is a period when the core of personality and the social being are developed. An understanding of the child's development and the development of the human mind allows environments to be prepared to meet the needs of the infant and foster independence, motor development and language acquisition.

During the first three years of life the child's intelligence is formed. These years of life are the most fundamental in the development of human beings and their potential.

The infants' physical development is phenomenal and apparent and inspires our care and attention. Yet a profound and less obvious development is taking place within the child.



MONTESSORI PLAYGROUP DATES AND TIMES

One day a week, during school terms - Two locations to choose from

- Our Rockingham Montessori Playgroup is currently held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:15am to 11:15am.
- Our Lakelands Playgroup is currently held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30am to 11:30am.

The playgroup fee is \$20 per session, per child paid termly in advance (i.e: 10 weeks = \$200, 9 weeks = \$180).

To book, please contact the school to find out about the availability of places, then complete the Application for Enrolment Form.

Ph: 9528-2118 or Email: enrolments@rms.wa.edu.au

Our Montessori Playgroups are very popular, so we recommend you book in early.



A TYPICAL MORNING IN THE INFANT TODDLER PROGRAM

Each session is run by a fully-qualified leader, who brings a wealth of experience. Each child is greeted personally with a handshake, and farewelled at the end of the session.

Montessori equipment, puzzles, arts & crafts and practical life trays are arranged carefully upon shelves to provide a beautifully prepared environment. Parents attend with their child, helping the child to master the work they have chosen. Independence is encouraged, and children of different ages may work together, learning from one another.

There is a 'bring and share' morning tea of fresh fruit. The children collect and set out their own placemats, glasses and plates at communal tables. Children are encouraged to serve themselves with child-sized tongs and pour their own water from child-sized jugs. The table is decorated with flowers in vases, collected and arranged by one of the children.

Children then wash up their own dishes and go out to play. After a time, they return inside for a story, singing, musical instruments and free-style dancing. It is very much a fun morning and the children enjoy themselves immensely.



ROCKINGHAM MONTESSORI SCHOOL PROVIDES DIDACTIC MATERIALS:

As most learning occurs during the first six years of life, it's during this period that children have the power of absorption and special sensitivities.

To fulfil these needs in a child, the "prepared environment" is designed to provide materials or activities that meet the needs of the child.

OUR 'PREPARED ENVIRONMENT'

- Offers the child the opportunity to work independently over an extended period of time at their own pace
- Gives the opportunity for repetition
- Isolates one concept only, making learning easier
- Is linked with the world outside and
- Requires independent thought and decision-making and is often self correcting

Here, teachers meet the social, emotional, intellectual, physical and cultural needs of a child through observation.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

IS THERE A MONTESSORI CURRICULUM?

When your child is ready to enroll in our Children's House for years 3-6, the daily practice of Montessori philosophy is made possible by a clearly defined Montessori curricular framework.

The Montessori curriculum includes practical life, sensorial, language, mathematics, botany, geography, art, music, drama, environmental studies and more!

When you look around the Montessori classroom, you will see the Montessori curriculum in all the activities and materials on the shelves.

HOW DOES MONTESSORI PROMOTE MY CHILD'S LEARNING?

Montessori focuses on children's learning and self-discovery, not on educators 'teaching'. Fostering independence is an integral part of Montessori philosophy:

- Children work individually or in small, self-selected groups
- Self-directed children are encouraged to work independently with minimal educator direction once they have been introduced to a range of new concepts or learning activities
- The children can access all activities independently or with the help of a peer without relying on constant adult assistance or direction
- The child is left to choose their own work but is presented with new, developmentally appropriate work regularly to increase their repertoire of choice and provide more opportunities for them to uncover their interests
- The Montessori child is put in charge of their learning through their exploration - this may seem a subtle distinction, but it is a crucial part of the Montessori approach

HOW WILL MY CHILD DEVELOP CONCENTRATION

Dr. Montessori discovered that young children desire to be active for long periods in concentrated activity. If interrupted by group work or whole class activities, children cannot reach a state of deep focus and choose work that needs only superficial involvement.

WHAT IS PRACTICAL LIFE?

Children have daily opportunities to learn and use practical life skills, which enable them to develop concentration and specific skills which lead to enhanced educational outcomes as well as the life skills of caring for their environment, themselves and others in the community.

MARIA MONTESSORI - EDUCATION

Maria Montessori was a medical doctor who became world renowned for her work in the education of young children. She was born in Italy on 31 August 1870 and in 1896 was the first woman to graduate as a doctor from the University of Rome. In her work as a voluntary researcher at the University's psychiatric clinic, she visited asylums to select patients for treatment and there observed children with intellectual disabilities.

It became clear to her that none of them had any hope of improvement while in asylum conditions and she became interested in the education of these children. She began to study, and eventually to work with, children with intellectual disabilities, becoming convinced that the key to their education lay in the release of their individual potential.

She designed and built a set of learning materials and developed an educational environment in which self-motivated learning could take place. Her success with these children led her to take an interest in the education of children without disabilities, and in 1907 she started her first school, the Casa dei Bambini in a Rome slum.

Thus began Dr Montessori's life-long involvement in education rather than medicine.

The Casa dei Bambini attracted a great deal of attention, and in 1909 Maria Montessori ran her first training course for teachers. From this came her theory of education (set out in 'The Montessori Method') and the growth of Montessori Schools all over Europe and the USA.

The Montessori approach to education is based on mutual respect and co-operation.

Dr Montessori believed that learning starts at birth and children develop naturally.

Dr Montessori was nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize, and she lived to see herself and her theories acclaimed throughout the world.



"Only through freedom and environmental experience it is practically possible for human development to occur"

- Maria Montessori



MONTESSORI
SCHOOLS & CENTRES AUSTRALIA

*'We envision a sustainable,
just and peaceful world
where custodians of tomorrow
engage, contribute and thrive'*

Rockingham Montessori School is a proud member of 'Montessori Schools & Centres Australia'
We acknowledge, reference and refer to their published guide
- Montessori Parent Guide Ages 3-6, 2022

