



SARAH NEAL

LEADERSHIP TEAM

ABOUT ME

My name is Sarah Neal and it is with great pride, honour and excitement that I take on the joint role of Director in joining the Leadership Team of Echoes Montessori.

This journey has been several years in the making, and began back in 1995, when Barbara Langford employed a young Early Childhood Educator, only a few years out of University to work at her first Montessori Pre-School, 'Jescott'. I started at Jescott as a teacher and left 5½ years later as Director to commence maternity leave with my first child, Chloe.

My time at Jescott laid the foundations for everything I have done, in every Early Childhood setting I have worked in since. I have had the pleasure of taking Montessori education into mainstream environments, where it has been warmly received and endorsed.

When my daughter was just 3 months old, I began a new journey fulfilling my role as wife and mother of a Defence Family. Our time in the Air Force saw us move 6 times in 10 years, from one end of Australia to the other and a total of 18 years away from South Australia. During this time I took the opportunity to provide my own little Montessori pre-school program for my own children at home; whilst studying for my Montessori Teaching Diploma. When my son James started primary school, I returned to teaching in country Victoria. Our move to Wagga Wagga, NSW in 2011, initially saw me working with additional needs children in a community pre-school, before I began my role as Pre-School Directress and Educational Leader at 'Montessori Children's House Wagga'. Here I was able to really reconnect with my passion for Montessori education; not only with the children and families, but with a new generation of Early Childhood Educators. Three years later, I returned to Adelaide and rejoined my SA Montessori family at Lilliput Village in Maylands. I have been working and mentoring staff in the Bambini Room for the past three years. It is with much pleasure that I now get to be a part of this exciting new adventure with Echoes Montessori and the residents of Encore Apartments.

MY ROLE

As part of the Echoes Leadership Team I will work alongside Karyn and Tina to ensure that Echoes Montessori always provides exceptional experiences for our children and supports our families and the community.

I am very much looking forward to sharing my knowledge, experience and passion for Montessori education; not only with the children and families of Echoes Montessori; but also with my colleagues. I see a significant part of my role as being a guide and mentor to our Educators in reaching their full potential, as we are all lifelong learners.

I am also extremely excited about the prospect of working in conjunction with ECH and the residents of Encore apartments in establishing amazing intergenerational programs and can't wait to see what our future together holds and it all coming to fruition!

MY WORLD IN PICTURES

My family and the role I play in supporting them is pivotal to who I am. I am also blessed to have; and have had; some amazing people in my life who have made me who I am today! I was always encouraged and supported to follow whatever path I chose, and along the way I discovered who it was I was meant to be ... a mother and an Early Childhood Educator! My mother, mother-in-law and grandfather are no longer with us, but were some of my biggest supporters and advocates, and unquestionably proud of my achievements in becoming a Pre-School Teacher and Montessori Educator and would be exceptionally proud of this new venture.

In 1995 I started at Jescott Montessori, with Barbara Langford seeing something in me I was yet to discover and I cannot attribute enough to her and my time at Jescott. I have taken my love and passion for Montessori education to mainstream Pre-School settings in three other states and four other centres during my family's moves around Australia over the past 14 years.

Finally, my children Chloe & James, who I have now successfully raised into young adults and now I get to watch where their life's path and journeys take them.



MY HOBBIES & INTERESTS



MY CORE VALUES

