

BETTER TOGETHER



The TEACHERS model of intergenerational engagement.

Our approach to intergenerational engagement is not 'one size fits all'. It is inclusive and individualised. The Montessori method treats each child as an active and self-determined navigator of their unique learning journey, and we extend this same respect and personalisation to our elders.

Offering a wide array of intergenerational opportunities ensures that individual interests and preferences are supported. Each child and adult chooses when and how they wish to be involved in intergenerational engagement.

Our program is organic and evolves over time as it is built upon the interests, skills and personalities of the children and residents who are participating at any given time. There is no limit to the directions that our intergenerational program can explore as these personalised pathways unfold. Every participant, at any age, is both a learner and a teacher.

This is why we describe our different types of intergenerational engagement as the 'TEACHERS' model.

	Meaning	Examples	Frequency	Setting
<div>T</div> <div>Traditions</div>	Meaningful and regular customs in our culture, which will be passed on to new members of our community over time.	Mother's Day picnic, Sensory Sports Day.	Seasonal	Echoes Classroom, Outdoor playscape, Urban Farm.
<div>E</div> <div>Exchanges</div>	Structured opportunities for elders to teach specific skills to children, and/or to learn them from teachers/parents	Sewing, woodwork, cooking.	Weekly	Echoes Classroom, Engram Room, Echoes Kitchen.
<div>A</div> <div>Activities</div>	Embedded elements of the curriculum, consisting of games, lessons or tasks set up for when elders visit and participate.	Puzzles, card games, craft.	Daily	Echoes Classroom, Outdoor playscape, Engram Room.
<div>C</div> <div>Community</div>	Special events with the broader community, and committee meetings between residents and children to determine direction for future events.	Family Movie Nights, Parent Education Events.	Monthly	Community Hall, Meeting Room, Urban Farm.
<div>H</div> <div>Health</div>	Shared opportunities to care for our holistic health through presentations from experts or guided group sessions.	Yoga classes, mental health workshops.	Monthly	Gym, Community Hall, Outdoor playscape.
<div>E</div> <div>Experiences</div>	Incursions or excursions, usually led by a specialist, so adults and children experience something new together.	Visits to the Zoo, Musical performances.	Seasonal	Echoes Classroom, Community Hall, Off-site Outings.
<div>R</div> <div>Routines</div>	Repeated tasks that have a practical purpose and a social significance in the classroom community.	Bread baking, Flower arranging, Book Cart.	Daily or weekly	Echoes Classroom, Engram Room, Urban Farm.
<div>S</div> <div>Serendipity</div>	Bumping into one another naturally around the village, allowing moments of connection to bloom organically.	Cheerful greetings, Spontaneous smiles.	Occasional	Urban Farm, Community Areas, Cafe.