



## Thank you for your interest in Jescott Montessori.

**We are proud to provide exceptional early years education, and nurturing care, for children aged from 2 years to school age. We also offer a supportive and inspiring Nido Playgroup for children under 2 to attend with a parent or relative.**

Jescott Montessori Pre-school offers a beautiful home-like environment with an interesting and adventurous garden. We provide small class sizes with teachers who are highly motivated and exceptionally caring. Jescott Montessori Pre-school is proud of its long-standing reputation as a much-loved community where children, parents and families feel a deep sense of belonging.

**We are open from 8am to 5pm weekdays (excluding public holidays) for 48 weeks each year.**

We have a minimum attendance of 2 days per week. This ensures that children experience consistency, build secure attachments and feel a strong sense of belonging.

**We are located at 6 Lorne Avenue, Magill.** We are fortunate to be surrounded by quiet streets and beautiful foliage, with Murray Park and the stunning grounds of the Magill UniSA campus only a short walk away. We enjoy a strong relationship with our local community, particularly our next-door-neighbours, the Magill RSL.



Our passionate educators possess the expertise, experience and the educational pedagogy to nurture the important developmental stages of a child's early years. We understand how important it is for children to have primary caregivers who provide excellent role modelling through quality use of spoken language, gentle and consistent guidance, and most importantly, genuine warmth and respect.

Jescott Montessori is *literally* a 'home away from home', as our classroom is within a residential cottage that has been lovingly repurposed for our Montessori community. This creates a cosy, comforting atmosphere that is perfect for families who are seeking a nurturing, secure dynamic for their child.

**We hope this Prospectus will answer your initial questions about Jescott Montessori. Please contact us to learn more, to book a tour and to join our Waiting List.**

## Our Philosophy



**The Montessori method is an educational pedagogy** based on supporting the innate needs of the child in order to encourage the child's natural love of learning and to promote the child's healthy and holistic development. The Montessori curriculum provides the philosophy and practices of our learning program and builds upon the harmonious foundations of the National Early Years Learning Framework.

The first Montessori classrooms were in Italy in 1907. Since that time the Montessori method has retained its relevance and proven its value. Today there are approximately 22,000 Montessori schools world-wide in over 110 countries.

An authentic Montessori environment like ours embeds the philosophy into every element of a high-quality program delivered by exceptional educators. We encourage you to read more about Montessori at [www.samontessori.com.au/about-montessori/](http://www.samontessori.com.au/about-montessori/)

## Our Symbol



Our symbol features butterflies, which represents that the early years are a truly transformative time in a child's life. Just as the caterpillar needs both nourishment to grow and the safety of a cocoon to reach its potential as a beautiful butterfly, so too do our children deserve the unique blend of inspiration and security that Jescott offers.

Each of our children will undergo a Montessori metamorphosis during their time with us, until they are ready to stretch their wings and flutter off into the wider world filled with the confidence and curiosity that Jescott has helped them cultivate.

## Our Community



**Jescott Montessori is proud to belong to the SA Montessori community.**

SA Montessori is a group of seven early learning environments in Adelaide. Each centre has its own character and atmosphere, but we are united by shared values. Barbara Langford, our founder, opened Jescott Montessori Preschool back in 1989 for her own daughter Jessica, who is now part of the SA Montessori team herself. SA Montessori is proud of this thirty year history of delivering the highest standards of education and care for children and providing meaningful support to parents and families.

SA Montessori commits to providing joyful experiences to help each child connect with their community and value their environment. You can learn more by downloading our [SA Montessori Statement of Principles](#) from our website.

## Our Story



**SA Montessori is not a franchise; we are a family.**

The owners of all of our centres are hands-on educators, not absent investors, with those owners connected not only by professional partnerships but also by friendship and family relationships. **Jescott Montessori was founded by Barbara Langford in 1989 for her daughter Jessica (the "Jess" in Jescott, alongside her brother "Scott").** Jessica went on to become an educator at Jescott, then the Director, and now a Montessori mum herself. Family values remain at the core of all we do.



## Our Early Learning Journey

Jescott Montessori provides a home for children throughout their early years. Our community of children ranges from curious young toddlers to those as mature as 6-years-old. Our youngest toddlers nestle in Nido, sharing their Montessori experience with a parent, grandparent or relative as part of a unique Playgroup. Nido helps to inspire learning and establish lasting connections for children and adults alike. The Montessori Pre-school curriculum is designed as a three-year program, with our mixed age group consists of children between the ages of 3 and 6 (and a limited number of 2 year-olds who are developmentally ready to learn alongside their older peers). In the year before Reception, children are invited to be part of our Universal Access group, guided by a Degree qualified Early Childhood Teacher as the equivalent of a 'kindy' program but with the added benefits of Montessori pedagogy preparing the child not only for school, but for life! The Montessori approach is embedded in every stage of this journey. Our children explore the curriculum areas of Practical Life, Sensorial, Maths, Language and Cultural Studies. Each child engages with specialised materials to inspire their self-directed learning and benefit from the intentional teaching of our highly-skilled and attentive educators.



'Nido' is the Italian word for 'nest'. Maria Montessori used this reference to describe the period where the young child needs a gentle, nurturing and protective environment in which to prepare for their growing independence. Our hour-long Parent-Child Nido Program is held in our aptly named 'Treehouse' room one morning a week. The group is for children aged between 12 months to three years, who attend with a parent, to enjoy activities and learning experiences that inspire this stage of development. Parents also begin a learning journey as they begin to appreciate the Montessori approach. Our Parent-Child Nido Coordinator guides families toward an understanding of their child's developmental needs and milestones. The Parent-Child Nido Program is designed to assist children to become independent and once the child is showing developmental readiness, the Coordinator will assist the parent to initiate the separation process in preparation for the next step into pre-school.



***Our Preschool program (including the kindergarten year) nurtures the holistic needs of the child.***

This is an age of questioning, exploring and discovering. It takes a special program to keep up with this intrinsic energy, and that is exactly what we offer. Our Montessori Pre-school program has been developed and refined over SA Montessori's thirty-year history, resulting in the exceptionally robust and well-respected approach we deliver today.

Our Preschool Program provides a strong early learning experience so that children are able to confidently transition straight from Jescott into Reception, with no need for the additional sideways step of a year at a government kindergarten or ELC. Our aim is not only to provide your child with the foundation skills for all future learning but also to ensure that we create happy childhood memories of feeling valued and loved.

## A Day in Our Life

Our Montessori 'Work Cycle' begins at 9am each morning so we encourage families to arrive before this time. At the end of each day we hold a group 'Music Time' which finishes with a 'Goodbye Time' at 3.00pm. The hours between 9.00am and 3.00pm therefore mark our formal 'school day' and we strongly encourage parents to ensure their children are present for this period. Families are able to choose between enrolling in our Standard Hours (8am to 4pm) or to request Extended Hours (8am to 5pm). Each child's enrolment covers the full day period of their chosen hours. Families are welcome to arrive between 8.00 and 9.00am, and to collect their child between 3.00 to 4.00pm (if enrolled in Standard Hours) or between 4.00pm and 5.00pm (if enrolled in Extended Hours).

The presence of parents and families can be felt in many ways throughout the day. Parents are welcome to participate in our program by volunteering, suggesting subjects to explore, or donating resources.



## Our Environment

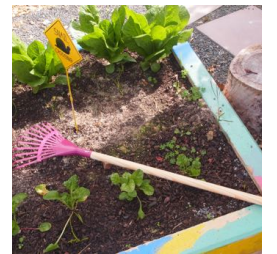
A Montessori classroom is an inspiring learning environment filled with wonderful resources that encourage independent exploration and discovery. Our Montessori teachers prepare the environment to meet the needs of the children. The wonderful and precise Montessori materials are always available for the children to practice their newly acquired skills and extend their knowledge. Children can interact intelligently with their surroundings and become engaged in their own learning at their own individual level of interest and in their own time.

Each day at Jescott offers opportunities for children to be inspired, engaged and delighted by the Montessori curriculum. Our outdoor environment is an extension of our classroom, with nature play happening every day. We encourage children to arrive comfortably dressed for adventure and sensory experiences. We engage in Music and Movement each day, bringing joy through song, dance and instruments.



**Our outdoor areas have been thoughtfully developed with a balanced blend of invitations to play in different ways.**

Open spaces encourages children to project their imagination onto the environment, engaging creatively with the elements. Gross motor games and equipment ensure that children can build their bodies as they engage in movements that promote balance, coordination, strength and control. Our sensory garden offers calming zones where mindfulness blossoms through yoga and meditation. The 'outdoor classroom' inspires the mind and body alike. Thriving gardens include fruits, vegetables and herbs which the children harvest for our kitchen, enjoying the reciprocal process of nurturing the plants and then taking nourishment from them.



**The children's kitchens provide a beautiful home-like environment where they engage in food preparation and cooking.** The Montessori 'Practical Life' curriculum focuses on giving children an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to their environment as they develop useful skills. Each day the children collaborate on cooking experiences or learn to use tools and utensils. Prior to lunch the children set the table and after lunch, they are responsible for clearing away, washing the dishes and stacking the dishwasher. Through these hands-on experiences they also learn about recycling, composting and healthy eating.

**We are proud to be a 'Lunchbox Centre'.** Children encounter special touches from home at lunchtime when they unpack their lunches from home. We believe this is an important way of protecting the health and safety of each child's dietary needs as well as respecting cultural preferences around food and incorporating a 'little slice of home' to support the emotional well-being of the children.



## Our Class Sizes

We believe that *small class sizes* is one of the most fundamental elements of quality care for children. We are committed to creating environments that make children feel like they are gathered with extended family rather than crammed into an institution. As such, we have intimate groups with small numbers of children and consistent educators. We benefit from a surplus of space, with the size of the physical environment far exceeding the ratio required for the number of children we care for. We are proud of our commitment to giving each child a secure, supportive space surrounded by a small number of treasured friends.

## Our Village

We think of Jescott as a 'family', but we are also part of a broader community. We help our children build bonds with a diverse range of individuals through intergenerational experiences with ECH Independent Aged Care and the Magill RSL chapter. We also connect with students from UniSA to empower the educators of tomorrow.

Jescott Montessori is also part of a professional village, and we have been recognised within the early childhood sector through receiving the 'Excellent' Rating by ACECQA twice, holding this coveted award from 2016-2019, and then again from 2019-2022.





## Our Fee Structure

Our priority is to ensure that our children receive the exceptional standard of education and care that they deserve. Our fee structure reflects the costs associated with delivering this high-quality program. Our fees cover all operating expenses of our centre, from the wages of our qualified, dedicated educators to the purchase of the inimitable Montessori materials, the provision of ingredients for cooking experiences and consumables for art activities, and everything in between. We are sure you will agree that the quality of our educators, environment and programs are worth the investment.



**Waiting List Application Fee:** \$75\* (non-refundable)

*This fee is waived for siblings of children who are currently, or previously, enrolled with SA Montessori.*

**Enrolment Fee:** \$145 (non-refundable)

**Bond:** Upfront payment equivalent to two weeks' fees (refundable upon departure if four weeks' written notice of departure is provided and conditions are met as per Parent Handbook).

**0 - 3 years of age Daily Fee:** \$112

**3 - 6 years of age Daily Fee:** \$106

### Child Care Subsidy

The **Child Care Subsidy (CCS)** provides assistance to help families with the cost of child care.

If you are eligible to receive the Child Care Subsidy (CCS), your entitlements will be paid **directly to the service** your child is attending. The service will then deduct CCS from your child's regular fees, leaving you with only a gap to pay for your child's enrolment.

The government has an online estimator to assist you with determining your eligibility and expected entitlements. Visit the '[Payment and Service Finder](#)' at the **Centrelink website**.

### Terms & Conditions

Our fees are structured according to age to reflect the differing costs associated with these ages, including (but not limited to) the higher number of educators required to satisfy the legal educator-to-child ratios for younger children. Fees are payable at the end of each week of attendance. Fees apply for 48 weeks of the year for all days booked including public holidays and sick days. Fees are calculated as a full day of attendance irrespective of whether a child utilizes all available hours. Missed sessions cannot be made up. Fees are paid by direct withdrawal from a nominated bank account using the 'Debitsuccess' system.

**PLEASE READ OUR FULL TERMS & CONDITIONS AT: [www.samontessori.com.au/terms-and-conditions/](http://www.samontessori.com.au/terms-and-conditions/)**



## Our Policies

Families who join our Jescott Montessori community will become familiar with the many policies that guide our professional conduct and maintain our exceptional educational environments and will receive a detailed Parent Handbook. Some of our policies are relevant at this stage of your enquiry, particularly our **Immunisation Policy**.

Our Immunisation Policy requires evidence that a child is following the National Immunisation Schedule as a prerequisite for enrolment. For a full copy of our Immunisation Policy please visit:

[www.samontessori.com.au/for-our-families/](http://www.samontessori.com.au/for-our-families/)

We are also proud of our **Sleep and Rest Policy**, which provides a safe and healthy environment for our children. It promotes partnerships with parents to understand a child's personal needs alongside the importance of following research-based practices.

Our **Nutrition Policy** requires parents to provide lunchboxes that promote healthy eating and avoid known allergens for the protection of others.

Families are also required to follow our **Sun Protection Policy** by providing sunscreen and a protective hat between 1st August and 30th April.

## Joining Our Community

The first step towards joining our community is to apply to Our Waiting List. This makes you eligible to be considered for Our Enrolment Process if a corresponding position becomes vacant. Registering to this list does not guarantee a placement at the centre. Every reasonable effort is made to accommodate your request, but we are limited by our licensed capacity and we anticipate that enrolments will fill quickly as we are a boutique centre with only 26 children attending each day.

**You are welcome to tour the centre before, or after, joining the Waiting List. Please contact us to book an appointment.**

### Our Waiting List

Jescott Montessori operates with a robust Waiting List, so we encourage families to register their interest as early as possible. We recommend that families embrace the earliest possible starting point for their child, as enrolled children are given priority of placement to add days of attendance or transition to other age groups when positions become available within the centre. Our Waiting List is run fairly and professionally. Due to the restrictions on our licensed capacity, the high demand for placements, and the limited vacancies that arise, we can never *guarantee* any child a placement. We are told we are worth waiting for - we hope you agree.

- Complete your digital Waiting List form at [www.samontessori.com.au/jescott-waiting-list/](http://www.samontessori.com.au/jescott-waiting-list/)
- Transfer your \$75 Waiting List Fee (or specify the name of sibling(s) currently or previously enrolled with SA Montessori)
- While you are awaiting news of your placement with Jescott Montessori, we encourage you to contact Centrelink to begin enquiries about your eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy.
- We will contact you if a vacancy arises to accommodate your child, or if we require further information for your application.

### Our Enrolment Process

When positions become available in our centre, we first look to our enrolled children to ensure that we accommodate those needing to transition from Nido to Preschool and/or those requiring additional days of care. We also endeavour to prioritise the enrolment of siblings of attending children. We then turn to our Waiting List to fill remaining vacancies and these new families will move through our Enrolment Process.

- You will be contacted to discuss the position and you will be emailed an Offer of Placement pack.
- Before your child is due to begin we will formalise the enrolment with a 'Complying Written Agreement'.
- Your Enrolment Registration Fee and Bond will be collected at that point to guarantee your placement.
- An Orientation process is available for families prior to the formal starting date. The orientation allows children and families to become familiar with their classroom environment, meet their teaching team, and build confidence with the routines of the centre. You will be advised of orientation dates and procedures when your enrolment is finalised.

**Thank you for your interest in Jescott Montessori Pre-school. We look forward to welcoming you into our community.**



## Learn more

Families who join our community are provided with our detailed Parent Handbook, receive regular updates directly from the educators and our centre leaders, and are able to borrow books from our extensive Parent Library. All of this will help you to understand the magic of Montessori for your child! If you are eager to learn more right now, we recommend the following resources:



[www.samontessori.com.au/terms-and-conditions/](http://www.samontessori.com.au/terms-and-conditions/)

[www.samontessori.com.au/for-our-families/](http://www.samontessori.com.au/for-our-families/)

[www.montessorichild.com.au](http://www.montessorichild.com.au)

[www.aidtolife.org](http://www.aidtolife.org)

[www.rie.org](http://www.rie.org)

*"The greatness of the human personality begins at the hour of birth."*

*Dr Maria Montessori*