



Little Oxford Montessori
Scholars from the Start



Thank you for your interest in Little Oxford Montessori.

We are proud to provide exceptional early years education, and nurturing care, for children aged from 6 months to 6 years.

A child's first steps into the world set them upon a pathway that unfolds towards their future. We believe that there is nothing more important than giving each child the most solid and secure foundation for these early explorations. We have created a nurturing environment where we can support your child's natural instincts to connect, explore and grow!

We are open from 8am to 5.30pm weekdays (excluding public holidays) for 48 weeks each year.

Babies in our 'Nido' room attend a shorter day from 8.15am to 4.15pm. We would love to talk to you more about the pedagogical values underpinning these hours for our infants.

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.



Little Oxford Montessori is located at 18 Trimmer Tce, Unley, nestled into a family-friendly neighbourhood. We sit between Unley Road and Fullarton Road, giving families who work in the city convenient routes to get into town.

Our name reflects our location, with our stunning nature playscape overlooking Oxford Terrace, and also the pride we take in implementing a pedagogy that helps each child realise their intellectual potential. The world-renowned 'Oxford University' may be on the other side of the world geographically, but we feel connected by a shared pursuit of building a better future by nurturing each learner's unique gifts. We are delighted to inspire each of our little 'scholars' from the very start.

We hope this Prospectus will answer your initial questions about Little Oxford 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/

Our Symbol



Our symbol is the sunrise, representing that we support each child's dawn of discovery. They radiate the first glimmers of brightness that will light up their whole lives, and it is our privilege to help them see all the beauty that is illuminated around them.

Our Montessori community is 'little' in name and in nature. We believe that small class sizes are an integral component of quality care as it allows for the development of meaningful relationships and truly personalised learning programs. Our 'boutique' class sizes ensure that our community of families will always feel a sense of welcome contribution and engagement with our educators.

Our Community



Little Oxford 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.

Little Oxford Montessori is co-owned by four partners, including mother-and-daughter duo Barbara and Jessica Langford (pictured), and sisters-in-law Adriana and Pam Francescangeli.

Learn more about SA Montessori's ownership team at www.samontessori.com.au/our-educators/

Our Early Learning Journey

Little Oxford Montessori provides a home for children throughout their early years. Our community of children ranges from those as young as 6 months of age to those as mature as 6-years-old. Our children progress through a special journey as they grow within our caring community. Our youngest bubs first nestle in Nido. As they take their first steps they advance into our Piccolo area. As their bodies build they bound towards the Bambini space. Finally, they put the pieces of the puzzle together in our Preschool program for 3 to 6-year-olds. Each of these age groups has a dedicated classroom that caters to their unique developmental needs, but we are one community and each child knows every teacher, visits all of our spaces, and connects with all peers. We are one family, and we take a holistic view of each child's overall 'Little Oxford' journey.

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.



We are privileged to provide a home away from home for babies and toddlers through 'Montessori from the Start'. This program provides the youngest members of our community with a level of care, attention and personalisation that reflects the dynamics of a home environment as closely as possible. Our approach is informed by the latest research in infant development and neuroscience and incorporates world-renowned practices in care and education. We particularly draw from principles of RIE and Pikler to enrich the Montessori curriculum, ensuring that our caregiving routines are as nurturing and enriching as our educational program.

As a tribute to Dr Maria Montessori, we reflect her Italian heritage in the language we use to describe our *From the Start* environments. Our youngest babies enter the 'Nido' (the 'nest'), while our toddlers inhabit the 'Piccolo' and 'Bambini' rooms.



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

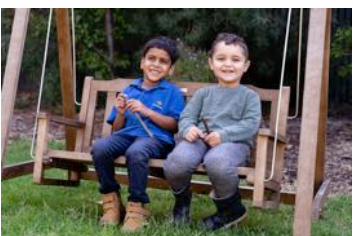
This is an age of questioning, exploring and discovering. It takes a special program to keep up with this intrinsic energy, and that is exactly what we offer. Our Montessori Pre-school program has been developed and refined over SA Montessori's thirty-year history, resulting in the exceptionally robust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



Each day at Little Oxford 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 believe there is no such thing as the 'wrong weather', just the need for the 'right clothes'! We have a uniform shirt to ensure that children are comfortably dressed for adventure and sensory experiences. We engage in Music and Movement each day, bringing joy through song, dance and instruments.



The presence of parents and families is felt in many ways throughout the day. Parents are welcome to participate in our program by volunteering, suggesting subjects to explore, or donating resources. We also encounter special touches from home at lunchtime when the children unpack their lunches from home. **We are proud to be a 'Lunchbox Centre'.** 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 Environment

Our community of children ranges from those as young as 6 months of age to those as mature as 6-years-old and our physical environments have been designed to ensure a healthy balance of specialization and integration. We have identified age groups that share developmental tendencies and we have lovingly crafted spaces to reflect each of these unique stages: Nido, Piccolo, Bambini and Preschool. Yet there is also a natural flow between these areas, as well as communal shared spaces, ensuring that children are never artificially separated from their peers. Our younger children have the chance to interact with their elders, aspiring to what they will become, while our older children are given opportunities to be leaders, role models and caretakers for their little friends.

Our environment consists of freshly refurbished classrooms that have been meticulously designed to reflect true Montessori magic! The delight is in the detail and you will find countless little touches that inspire, engage and enchant each child. Each element of our environment is carefully prepared with purposeful materials and inspiring experiences. These materials and presentations align with the Montessori curriculum and are designed to support the child's needs.



The outdoor area has been thoughtfully developed with a balanced blend of invitations to play in different ways.

Our nature playscape lets the beauty of the natural world take centre stage. This open space encourages children to project their imagination onto the environment, engaging emotionally and creatively with the elements. Sensory areas offer children the opportunity to engage with the magic of mess as they dig in our mud kitchen or sift through the sandpit. Gross motor games ensure that children can build their bodies as they engage in movements that promote balance, coordination, strength and control. Our 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 bake, prepare fruit platters and assist in preparing afternoon snacks. 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.

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 carers. 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

There is certainly an abundance of beauty awaiting you here at Little Oxford Montessori, not only within our special centre but also in our surrounding community. Our nature playscape is lovingly known as 'Cedars Park' in reference to our sister centre Cedars Montessori Pre-school just down the road. We warmly welcome friends from Cedars each week, as we host their parent and child Playgroup session. We actively engage with community groups and organisations, such as our intergenerational experiences with older friends. We are also fortunate that within a few short steps of our own home we can visit neighbouring community sites including the Unley Oval, the Village Green and the Unley Library, including its exceptional Toy Library.



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 a nutritious morning and afternoon tea, 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 conditions met as per Parent Handbook).

0 - 3 years of age Daily Fee: \$135

3 - 6 years of age Daily Fee: \$121

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/



Our Policies

Families who join our Little Oxford 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/

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 59 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

Little Oxford 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/little-oxford-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 Little Oxford 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 into older age groups 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 Little Oxford Montessori. 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/

www.samontessori.com.au/for-our-families/

www.montessorichild.com.au

www.aidtolife.org

www.rie.org

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

Dr Maria Montessori