



## Thank you for your interest in Cedars Montessori.

**Cedars Montessori Pre-school is a very special place where every child feels valued.** There is nothing more important than giving each child a solid and secure foundation for their early explorations. We provide a nurturing environment where we can support your child's instincts to connect, explore and grow!

We welcome children aged two to six years old. We also offer a parent-child Toddler and Transition program for children under three years of age to attend with a parent or other family member.

**We open from 8am to 5.30pm weekdays (excluding public holidays) for 48 weeks a year.** Our school day runs from 9am to 3pm, with extended care provided before and after that program for no additional fee. We ask families to advise us of their arrival and departure times so that we can plan our program accordingly.

We have a minimum attendance of 2 days a week in our Pre-school group to ensure that children build secure attachments and feel a strong sense of belonging. Our Toddler and Transition program operates once a week.



**Cedars Montessori is located at 52 Oxford Terrace, 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.

Cedars Montessori Pre-school has a proud and long history of providing high quality education and care. It was founded in 1993 in Parkside, before moving to the grounds of Walford Anglican School for Girls in 2001, and then relocating in 2012 to its current location alongside St Spyridon College.

We employ qualified educators who have the expertise, experience and educational knowledge to nurture the important development of a child's early years. We look forward to welcoming you into our community.

**We hope this Prospectus will answer your initial questions about Cedars 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 reflects the way that we empower every child in our care to 'reach for the stars'. We aim to help every little learner to feel capable, supported, inspired and confident.

The imagery of two stars side by side moving in different directions is also important to our core values. It represents our belief that a cohesive classroom community consists of individuals who are connected to one another, but following their own unique path. We are proud that Cedars Montessori is a constellation of shining stars who are full of light.

## Our Community



**Cedars Montessori Pre-school 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.

**Cedars is co-owned by Barbara Langford and Barb Nache, who have been business partners and friends for more than three decades.**

Learn more about SA Montessori's ownership team at [www.samontessori.com.au/our-educators/](http://www.samontessori.com.au/our-educators/)

## Our Early Learning Journey

Cedars Montessori provides a home for children throughout their early years. Our community of children ranges from those as young as 12 months of age to those as mature as 6-years-old. Our littlest learners can begin in our parent-child Toddler class for children aged 12 months to 2 years. As their independence blossoms, they progress into our Transition class for 2 to 3 year olds to attend with their parent (or carer) still present but taking a step back. Finally, they put the pieces of the puzzle together in our Preschool program, where they can stay until they are ready to begin primary school. Our Toddler and Transition groups have a dedicated classroom that caters to their unique developmental needs, but we are one community and each child will get to know every teacher, visit all of our spaces, and connect with all peers. We are one family, and we take a holistic view of each child's overall Cedars 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.



Our Toddler and Transition classes focus not only on the child, but also on the parent (or carer). We provide a program that enables parents to understand the Montessori philosophy and how this allows children to fully develop their potential. Our skilled Coordinator provides parents with ideas on how to apply developmentally appropriate learning opportunities in their homes. The youngest children begin their young journey in the Toddler class and graduate to the Transition class once they approach a stage of early independence.

**Toddler class** (12 months to 2 years)

Tuesday morning 9.15am - 10.45am.

**Transition class** (2 - 3 years)

Tuesday afternoon 11.15am - 1.15pm.

Please note that the Commonwealth Childcare Subsidy does not apply to the Toddler or Transition programs. For subsidized toddler care we are able to accept a limited number of two-year-old children into our Preschool program.



***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 Cedars 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.

## Our Uniform, Food & Family Input



Each day at Cedars Montessori 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 to ensure that children are comfortably dressed for adventure and sensory experiences. This also aids easy identification during excursions into the local community.



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 physical environments have been designed to ensure a diverse array of opportunities, experiences and inspiration to nurture each child's holistic development. 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. Our Toddler and Transition classes operate from a specially prepared space on the grounds of our sister centre, Little Oxford Montessori, to provide the room for adults and children to learn alongside one another. Our Pre-school environment sits within a beautiful stone building, creating a space that feels like home while reflecting 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 equipped with a balanced blend of activities to promote play in different ways.**

Our play 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 and equipment ensure that children can build their bodies as they engage in movements that promote balance, coordination, strength and control. Our garden beds include 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.** 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. They use activity trays to master individual tools and tasks, such as using tongs or pouring water, then put these skills together for cooking. 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. Our boutique environment of only 24 children per day offers a unique advantage of ensuring that we truly know every child, and every family. 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 an abundance of beauty here at Cedars Montessori, not only within our special centre but also in our surrounding community. Our Toddler and Transition sessions are held on the grounds of our sister centre, Little Oxford Montessori, just around the corner on Trimmer Terrace. This gives us access to their garden and playground, where their nature playscape is lovingly known as 'Cedars Park' in reference to this special connection.

We are also fortunate that within a short walk 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. Our full Fee Schedule is available via our website.



**Waiting List Application Fee:** \$75\* (non-refundable) \*This fee is waived for current or previous students of any SA Montessori centre, and their siblings.

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

**Bond:** Upfront payment equivalent to two weeks' fees (refundable upon departure if conditions met as per Parent Handbook).

**Toddler Program:** \$30 per session for a 10 week term (sessions not eligible for CCS)

**Transition Program:** \$37 per session for a 10 week term (sessions not eligible for CCS)

**Pre-school Daily Fee (2-3 years of age):** \$141

**Pre-school Daily Fee (3-6 years of age):** \$134

### 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 Cedars 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 up to date with 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 24 children attending each day.

**We welcome families to tour the centre before, or after, registration to the Waiting List. Please contact us to book an appointment.**

### Our Waiting List

Cedars 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/cedars-waiting-list/](http://www.samontessori.com.au/cedars-waiting-list/)
- Transfer your \$75 Waiting List Fee (or specify the name of current/previous SA Montessori student or sibling),
- While you are awaiting news of your placement with Cedars 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.

### 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 Cedars 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*