



## It takes a village...

**Echoes Montessori is not just an early learning centre; it is a home away from home in a unique intergenerational village.**

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 community where we can support your child's natural instincts to connect, explore and grow!

**Echoes Montessori at 85 Smart Road, Modbury,** is the seventh 'SA Montessori' early learning environment in Adelaide.

It is embedded into the Encore Apartments village, providing ample opportunities for intergenerational engagement and the use of shared facilities including an urban farm, and is conveniently located directly opposite the O'Bahn.

The environment of Echoes Montessori was designed through a collaborative process between our experienced Montessori educators, a talented team of architects, and the project managers of the Encore apartments. The result is an aesthetically stunning setting with delightful details hidden around every corner and a wonderful sense of whimsy waiting to be explored.



**Echoes Montessori offers education and care for children aged from 6 months to 6 years from 8am to 6pm 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.

Thank you for your interest in our community. We hope this Prospectus will answer your initial questions, and the next step will be to register your interest and join us for a tour!

*“Our care of the child should be governed by the endeavor always to keep burning within them that light which is called intelligence.”*

*Dr Maria Montessori*



## 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.

## Our Community



Echoes Montessori belongs to two special community groups - the Encore Apartments village and the SA Montessori family. These connections help ensure that our children experience a sense of belonging within a broader network of relationships and support systems.

Encore Apartments, presented by ECH, provide thoughtfully designed retirement living for individuals who are independent and enthusiastic about life.

SA Montessori is a group of seven early learning environments in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide, with the first centre, Jescott Montessori, founded back in 1989. 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.

## Our Symbol



**Our name and our symbol reflect our belief that the influence and inspiration of our elders 'echoes' through the generations and is carried forward into the future.**

We are connecting the children who have just entered this great world of human thought with their elders who have the most experience in it.

We believe that we are *better together*, with the echoes of our voices and values reverberating in the hearts and minds of our community.

## 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.

**Here at Echoes Montessori our ownership team could not be closer - Barbara and Jessica Langford are a mother-and-daughter duo who have been passionately developing this project for more than three years.**

## Our Early Learning Journey

Echoes 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 environments have been carefully designed to ensure a healthy balance of specialization and integration. We have identified age groups that share specific developmental tendencies and we have lovingly crafted spaces that reflect each of these unique stages. Yet there is also a natural familial flow between these areas, as well as communal shared spaces, ensuring that children are never artificially separated from their peers. Younger children have the chance to interact with their older peers, aspiring to what they will become, while our older children are given opportunities to be leaders, role models and caretakers for their little friends.



Artist's rendering

**Montessori From the Start is a unique model of care developed by SA Montessori to support babies and toddlers.** 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, the innovative educator who developed the pedagogy we implement today, 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 'Bambini' room.



Artist's rendering

**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 Echoes 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 Echoes 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 shirt and jacket to ensure that children are comfortably dressed for adventure.** We engage in Music and Movement on a daily basis, bringing joy through song, dance and the use of instruments. We also embrace a range of Excurisnons and Incursions to enrich each child's learning.

The presence of parents and families is felt in many ways throughout the day. Parents are welcome to volunteer, particularly with our intergenerational activities. We also encounter special touches from home, especially at lunchtime when the children unpack their lunches from home. **We are proud to be a 'Lunchbox Centre' as 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' each day to support the emotional well-being of the children.**



## Shared Land, Shared Lives: Our Unique Connection with Encore Apartments

*Shared land* means that we occupy the same physical premises and *shared lives* reflects the way that we intertwine the routines, experiences and sense of community that develops upon that land.

We believe that co-location is a vital ingredient for truly authentic intergenerational integration. Our environment is a place where children and elders connect not just during occasional visits, but in meaningful manner on a permanent basis. We have given consideration given to the countless ways that the two groups can authentically merge through shared experiences such as gardening, cooking, story-telling and friendship.



Our children, educators and elders will spend countless hours side by side swapping stories, sharing songs and showcasing skills. Our program will be organic and ever-evolving because it will be built upon the interests, skills and personalities of the children and residents who are participating at any given time. An adult who is a keen knitter might inspire a unit of learning where they teach the children to knit, which might spark a community project where knitted items are sold to raise funds for a charitable cause. There is no limit to the directions that our intergenerational program might explore and we are excited for the adventures that we will embrace as these pathways unfold.

The Montessori approach treats each child as an individual on their own unique learning journey, and we extend this same respect and personalisation to our elders. We have developed a wide array of intergenerational opportunities to ensure that individual interests and preferences are accounted for. Each child, and each resident of Encore apartments, will choose whether or not to be involved in intergenerational interactions and will have a variety of options for when, how and what shared experiences they do engage in. We have an abundance of different spaces that can accommodate our various activities, including our dedicated 'Engram' Intergenerational Room.

## Our Village

Encore Montessori embraces its position within the Encore Apartments community. This vibrant village offers a variety of facilities to support the holistic well-being of residents, children and staff members alike! Our children tend to the **Urban Farm** and learn about food preparation at the **in-house cafe**. They will regularly visit the **gym** for physical activities and pop into the **library** to read with their elders. We benefit from the presence of **allied health partners** providing wellness services such as physiotherapy. The **Community Hall** provides the perfect setting for parent-child groups and parent education events. To top it all off, **Linear Park** is just a few steps away!

*"The land is where our roots are. The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony with the Earth."*

*Dr Maria Montessori*





## Our Fee Structure

As a family operated centre, with a mother-and-daughter ownership duo who invest their hearts into our community, our priority is to ensure that our children receive the standard of 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 it is worth the investment.



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

*The Waiting List 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).

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

**3 - 6 years of age Daily Fee:** \$130

*Our full Fee Schedule is available via our website.*

### Child Care Subsidy

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

The CCS replaces the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate.

The government has an online estimator to assist you with determining your expected entitlements. **Visit the Centrelink website at [www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/centrelink](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/centrelink) and click 'Payment and Service Finder'.**

Our fees are structured according to age to reflect the differing costs associated with these ages, including (but not limited to) the increased number of educators required to satisfy the legal educator-to-child ratios for younger children.

Fees are payable at the conclusion 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 paid by direct withdrawal from a nominated bank account using the centre 'Debitsuccess' payment 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 Encore Montessori community will become familiar with the many policies that guide our professional conduct and maintain our exceptional educational environments. Some of these policies are relevant at this stage of your enquiry, particularly our **Immunisation Policy** which 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 <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.

## Our Enrolment Process

Our SA Montessori centres operate with robust Waiting Lists, so the arrival of a new centre offers a unique opportunity for families to join our community without a long wait. If you are ready for your child to begin in 2022 we encourage you to register your interest as soon as possible for the best chance of securing your spot. If you are planning ahead for the future it is still worthwhile to submit your details now, as our placements are offered based on the chronological order of applications.



- Complete your digital Waiting List form at [www.samontessori.com.au/echoes-waiting-list/](http://www.samontessori.com.au/echoes-waiting-list/)
- Transfer your \$75 Waiting List Fee (or specify the name of current/previous SA Montessori student or sibling),
- A member of our team will be in touch to discuss your child's placement if a vacancy is available, or when one arises.
- Shortly 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.



You are welcome to tour Echoes Montessori before, or after, submitting your application. Please contact the centre via 8164 6999 or on [echoes@samontessori.com.au](mailto:echoes@samontessori.com.au) to book your visit.

While you are awaiting news of your placement with Echoes Montessori, we encourage you to contact Centrelink to begin enquiries about your eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy.

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.

Please note that registering your interest 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 60 children attending each day.

Thank you again for your interest in Echoes Montessori and we look forward to welcoming you into our community.

## Learn more

Families who join our community receive our detailed Parent Handbook, gain access to the Resources section of our website, 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](http://www.samontessori.com.au)  
[www.echencore.com.au](http://www.echencore.com.au)  
[www.montessoriforlife.com.au](http://www.montessoriforlife.com.au)  
[www.aidtolife.org](http://www.aidtolife.org)  
[www.montessorichild.com.au](http://www.montessorichild.com.au)  
[www.rie.org](http://www.rie.org)  
[www.themontessorinotebook.com](http://www.themontessorinotebook.com)



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

*Dr Maria Montessori*