



Thank you for your interest in Cedars Montessori.

Welcome to Cedars Montessori Preschool. Cedars Montessori is a special place where every child is valued.

We believe that the early years are a time of wonder, exploration, and connection, and we are dedicated to providing a nurturing environment that supports each child's natural curiosity and growth.

We are open Monday to Friday, between 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM (excluding public holidays) for 48 weeks a year.

At Cedars Montessori, we welcome children aged two to six years into our Pre-school program. We also offer a Toddler and Transition program for children 3 years and under, where they attend with a parent or carer.

To foster a strong sense of belonging and secure attachments, our Pre-school program requires a minimum attendance of two days per week, while the Toddler and Transition program operates one morning session a week during school terms.



Nestled in a family-friendly neighbourhood at 52 Oxford Terrace, Unley, Cedars Montessori is conveniently located between Unley Road and Fullarton Road, making it an easy choice for families commuting to the city.

Since our founding in 1993 in Parkside, Cedars Montessori has been committed to delivering high-quality Montessori education and care. Over the years we have grown and evolved, moving to Walford Anglican School in 2001 before settling into our home alongside St Spyridon College in 2012.

Our team of qualified and experienced educators is passionate about supporting your child's early learning journey. We look forward to welcoming your family into our warm and inclusive 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 Early Learning Journey

At Cedars Montessori, we provide a nurturing home for children throughout their early years. Our community welcomes children from 12 months to 6 years old, guiding them through each stage of their learning journey in a supportive and enriching environment. Our littlest learners begin in our parent-child Toddler & Transition class for children aged from 12 months. As their independence blossoms, our Playgroup Coordinator encourages parents to step back and observe Montessori in action. When they are ready, children can transition into our Pre-school program, where they continue their Montessori journey until they are fully prepared for primary school. While our Toddler and Transition groups have a dedicated classroom designed to support their unique developmental needs, Cedars Montessori is one close-knit community, so once a child has transitioned into the Pre-School environment, every child will build connections with all teachers, explore our learning space, and form meaningful relationships with their peers. We take a holistic view of each child's journey, ensuring they feel a deep sense of belonging throughout their time with us. The Montessori philosophy is at the heart of everything we do. At each stage, children engage with carefully designed learning materials and explore key curriculum areas, including Practical Life, Sensorial, Mathematics, Language, and Cultural Studies. Their self-directed learning is nurtured by highly skilled and attentive educators, who provide intentional teaching and guidance to inspire curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning.



Our Toddler & Transition Playgroup is a joyful space that inspires and empowers both children and parents. Designed as the ideal introduction to your child's Montessori journey, each session is filled with sensory activities, art and craft, outdoor exploration, and more. Guiding these sessions is our dedicated Playgroup Coordinator, Andrea—a degree-qualified Early Childhood teacher with over 20 years of experience. Andrea's warm and nurturing approach, combined with her passion for working with young children, creates strong, supportive relationships with both children and their families.

Toddler & Transition Session (12 months to 3 years)
Tuesday mornings, 9:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Please note that the Commonwealth Childcare Subsidy does not apply to the Toddler & Transition program. However, we do offer a limited number of subsidized places for two-year-olds within our Pre-school program.



Our Montessori Pre-school program nurtures the whole child during this exciting stage of questioning, exploring, and discovering. With a strong focus on independence, confidence, and curiosity, we provide a rich and engaging learning environment tailored to the needs of children aged 2 to 6 years.

Refined over 30 years within SA Montessori, our program is well-respected for its holistic approach, ensuring that each child develops a strong foundation for future learning.

At Cedars, children are fully prepared to transition straight into Reception without needing to attend a government kindergarten or ELC. More than just preparing for school, we aim to create joyful childhood memories—ones filled with warmth, belonging, and the confidence of knowing they are truly valued and loved.

Our Uniform, Food & Family Input



Each day at Cedars Montessori is filled with opportunities for children to be inspired, engaged, and delighted by the Montessori curriculum. Our outdoor environment is an extension of our classroom, where exploration and outdoor play is a daily experience. We believe there is no such thing as the *wrong weather*—only the need for the *right clothes*! To support active, hands-on learning, we have a comfortable and practical uniform that allows children to embrace sensory experiences and outdoor adventures. It also helps with easy identification during excursions into the local community, ensuring safety while fostering a sense of belonging.



Families play an important role in our community. Parents are warmly invited to participate in our program by volunteering, sharing ideas for exploration, or donating resources that enhance learning experiences. A special connection to home is also felt each day at lunchtime, as children unpack their own lunches brought from home. As a proud *Lunchbox Centre*, we believe this approach protects children's health and safety, accommodating individual dietary needs, respects cultural food preferences, embracing the diversity of our families and provides a comforting touch of home, supporting children's emotional well-being.

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.



Our outdoor space is purposefully planned to provide a balanced blend of activities that encourage different types of play. Children are invited to imagine, create, and explore, developing emotional and creative connections with their environment. Our outdoor setting helps children to engage in diverse experiences such as:

- Sensory Play: Our mud kitchen and sandpit offer an ideal space for children to experience the *magic of mess*, engaging their senses as they dig, sift, and create.
- Gross Motor Development: Climbing structures, balance beams, and movement games support coordination, strength, and control, helping children develop confidence in their physical abilities.
- Gardening & Sustainability: Our vegetable and herb gardens offer hands-on experience caring for plants. Children nurture crops and harvest ingredients for cooking, learning about the reciprocal relationship between nature and nourishment.



Practical Life in action!

Inside, our children's kitchen provides a warm, home-like space where little hands develop big skills. The Montessori 'Practical Life' curriculum encourages children to contribute in meaningful ways, from food preparation to setting the table, washing dishes, and sorting recyclables. Children master tools and tasks using activity trays, practicing skills like pouring, tonging, and chopping before applying them to real-life cooking experiences. Through these hands-on moments, they not only develop independence but also learn about healthy eating, composting, and sustainability.

Small classes, big connections.



We believe that small class sizes are essential for quality care and meaningful relationships. Our intimate learning environment fosters a sense of family, rather than institution, where children feel truly seen, heard, and valued. We offer a truly boutique setting with only 24 children per day, consistent educators who build deep connections with each child, and a warm, supportive atmosphere where friendships flourish. This small-group approach ensures that we genuinely know every child and their family, creating a secure, nurturing space where children thrive.

Our Village & Community Connections

Beauty is found not only within Cedars Montessori but also in our connections to our local area. Our Toddler & Transition sessions take place at our sister centre, Little Oxford Montessori, located a short walk around the corner on Trimmer Terrace. We are also proud of our regular excursions and outings. Within a short walk, our children explore:

- The Village Green: Promoting a connection to nature and community
 - Unley Library & Toy Library: Sparking a lifelong love of stories, creativity and learning.
 - Intergenerational connections with Myrtle Cottage: Fostering empathy, inclusion and joy.
- At Cedars Montessori, we embrace being part of the village approach to raising children, where nature, community, and a sense of belonging come together to create a truly special early learning experience.



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 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 have hands-on education experience and those owners are connected not only by professional partnerships but also by shared history, friendship or family relationships. **Cedars is owned by Barbara Langford, founder of SA Montessori.** Barbara has been proudly operating Cedars for 3 decades.

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

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: \$40* (non-refundable, except where an offer of enrolment is made within 4 weeks of the fee being paid) **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 Transition Program: \$25 per session for a 10 week term (*not eligible for CCS*)

Pre-school Daily Fee (2-3 years of age): \$147

Pre-school Daily Fee (3-6 years of age): \$139

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 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/

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.



Join 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 vacancies tend to 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 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 are sure you will agree.

- Complete your digital Waiting List form at www.samontessori.com.au/cedars-waiting-list/
- Transfer your \$40 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 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 to 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/for-our-families/
www.montessorichild.com.au