



Nido Playgroup

Dr Maria Montessori used 'Nido' - Italian for 'nest' - to describe the young child's need for a nurturing and supportive environment.

Our Nido Playgroup is held on **Wednesdays from 9.30-10.30am** for children aged between 12 months to 3 years to attend with a parent, grandparent or caregiver.

These children are on an exciting journey through a wondrous new world, with countless concepts to be curious about. Our inspiring Playgroup empowers your child to explore!

Parents also embrace a learning journey as our Nido Coordinator shares insights about Montessori and each child's development.

What's the difference?

- Highly qualified Coordinator observing your child to identify their needs, strengths, and areas where they need support,
- Beautiful Montessori materials presented in an environment designed for this age group,
- Direct connection to the Preschool for continuity of care and a seamless early learning journey,
- Close-knit Montessori community with a 30 year history.

What are the fees?

\$22 per session

Sessions run during school terms. Fees for a 10-week term are deducted via DebitSuccess ahead of each term. Fees are non-refundable once term has commenced.



This booklet is designed to help prospective parents and new Nido families learn more about our special sessions.

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1 The benefits



The children who attend Nido Playgroup benefit from:

- The beauty of a child-centred environment where all the equipment and furnishings are designed to support their urge for independence, exploration and growth,
- Access to the Montessori materials that have been specially designed to support the development of toddlers,
- Uninterrupted quality time with a parent, grandparent or caregiver in an environment free from distractions or rushed schedules,
- Personalised support from a highly-qualified Coordinator who will scaffold their learning and create activities catering to their interests,
- Opportunities to interact with peers through observation, parallel play, and interactive experiences such as our group Music Time
- The chance to become familiar with the Montessori environment to prepare for a smooth transition to Preschool.



The adults are as important as the children in our Nido Playgroup. Participating in this community can support your own journey as a parent or grandparent by:

- Building a network of relationships with other families who share similar values about parenting,
- Connecting with a caring Coordinator who holds qualifications in Montessori Education and in Early Childhood development,
- Building your understanding of the Montessori approach to learning, and gaining ideas and inspiration for your home,
- Sharing special moments with your child and observing their learning in an enriching environment.

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What to expect



How is the Nido Playgroup structured?

Our families are greeted by our Coordinator on arrival then invited to explore our specially prepared Montessori environment. There are many interesting resources and enriching experiences awaiting you in the classroom and in our outdoor environment. We encourage children to make independent choices about their preferred activities, and the parent or caregiver observes and assists.

If your child feels hungry during the session you can enjoy your prepared snack together in our child-sized kitchen, using appropriate tools to engage in Practical Life lessons, like food preparation, and cleaning. During the session you can also discuss your observations, thoughts and experiences with our Coordinator and chat with other parents. Our morning ends with a group Music Time, where we sing, dance or play instruments together before saying 'farewell'.

What kind of activities are available during Nido?

We carefully prepare the environment to meet the needs and interests of the children in our group. Some materials are always available so that children can refine their skills over time, while others vary from week to week to provide new experiences and scaffold the children towards more complex challenges. To see some of the types of activities that are available, we invite you to enjoy the following video, which features some of our past sessions:



<https://youtu.be/smMTjtaRiNs>



What is the role of the Nido Coordinator?

Our Nido Coordinator, Josie DiGirolami, is present to support and empower children and parents alike. She will observe each child subtly during the session, and will approach families to talk about your child's development.

Josie will also share photos of your child's day through a digital portfolio platform. This means that parents can look back on these photos without having to hold onto a mobile during the session. This keeps your hands free, and your attention focused, on being mindfully present with your child.

Our Nido routine, environment and activities are designed to cater to the natural goals and instincts of toddlers, especially independence, movement and connection.

Independence

Toddlers are primed to embrace and expand upon their growing independence. This natural and vital instinct is an incredibly important aspect of this stage of development, but there are times when it can cause heightened emotions for the child (and the parent!) when asserting their independence. The beauty of the Montessori environment is that it is designed and prepared to cater to the child's desire for independence. The 'Practical Life' materials, tools and equipment allow children to achieve tasks for themselves - whether that is sweeping the sand back into the sandpit, pouring their own drink, or washing their cup in the child-height sink afterwards. Children build meaningful skills to care for themselves and others, and express their abilities within the sanctuary of the Nido space. This also contributes to each child's self-regulation and emotional maturity.



Movement

Toddlers have boundless energy and seek out every possible opportunity to move. They are building their bodies with every new step, and our Montessori environment and equipment helps them to coordinate their gross motor movements as well as refining their fine motor control. Our activities help children to build dexterity, strength, balance, hand-eye coordination and self-regulation. Our outdoor learning environment is as valuable as the classroom when it comes to developing this mastery over their movements.

"When children come into contact with nature, they reveal their strength."

Dr Maria Montessori



Connecting with others

Young children have the natural urge to absorb their culture and find a sense of belonging. Nido supports this in several ways. Firstly, it provides an unhurried and uplifting space for the parent (or grandparent) and child to bond and build memories together. The presence of our warm and nurturing Nido Coordinator, Josie, also encourages each child to start building secure, trusting and respectful relationships with educators. Finally, children start connecting with each other, first through observation and parallel play and eventually through direct shared play.

What to bring



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1

Sun safety

We require you to pack a protective sun hat, and apply sunscreen before your session, for yourself and your child between 1st August and 30th April and whenever the UV is above 3.

2

Healthy eating

We encourage you to bring a small healthy snack for your child, as all this busy learning can build up an appetite! Please avoid common allergens such as nuts.

3

Dress smart

This doesn't mean putting your child in their 'best' clothes; it means dressing them in a way that encourages free movement and messy, sensory play (and bring a change of clothes just in case)! Please ensure that your child wears supportive footwear with closed toes.

4

Leave drink bottles behind

Water bottles are not needed, as we have cool drinking water available for children and parents alike.

5

No such thing as bad weather

We encourage outdoor play whatever the weather, so on cold days please pack jackets and on rainy days please consider bringing gum boots and waterproof overalls for your child.

1

Parking

There is plenty of parking on Balmoral Ave and you can enter Nido via Jescott's rear entrance. There is also some parking in the RSL car park under the trees.

2

Signing in and out

When you arrive please use the iPad provided by our Coordinator to sign in, and then sign out when you are departing.

3

Health and hygiene

We pride ourselves on providing a safe and healthy space and we need your help to maintain this! Please follow all hygiene protocols as advised during your attendance, such as temperature checks, mask wearing and hand washing.

4

Storage

We have limited storage for bags but we encourage you to bring only what you truly need. Please leave your phone in storage during your session to maintain mindful presence free from distraction.

5

Family Pockets

Please regularly check your 'Family Pocket' for special drawings or artworks your child might create, and for notices or newsletters for our parents.



What to do

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What's next?

If you're thinking of enrolling in our Nido Playgroup:



You are welcome to **visit** one of our Nido sessions to see the magic of Montessori in action. Simply call 8332 2090 or email jescott@samontessori.com.au to schedule a visit.



Complete our online Waiting List form, specifying that you wish to start with Nido. You can call or email us with any questions.



Once you are offered a position, you need to complete your Enrolment Forms and Debitsuccess form before paying your fees (\$220 per term) in advance of your first term with us.



During your Enrolment Process we will guide you through any questions you might have, and the steps you complete will prepare your child not only for their Nido attendance but also for their eventual transition to Preschool.



Your main role once you start your sessions is to **connect and communicate** - with your child first and foremost, but also with other families and with our Jescott educators.



Our Nido Coordinator, Josie, will observe your child and approach you about indicators that they may be ready to take the next step of transitioning to Preschool. That decision will be made in partnership between you and Josie, when you agree that your child is ready and that next step feels right for your family.



When your child is ready to graduate into our Preschool sessions, Josie will guide them through a gentle transition that includes visiting the Preschool classroom during the Nido sessions.



Once your child has moved into our Preschool group, your role as a parent (or grandparent) remains just as important and valued. We are proud of our close, meaningful and supportive relationships with families, and we will continue to partner with you throughout your child's Montessori early learning journey.

Testimonials

"We appreciate all that you have done to foster Ollie's independence, resilience and confidence."

-Lauren

"We would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for preparing Max for a lifetime of success. Max is lucky enough to have someone like you contributing to his growth and emotional well-being in the early stage of his life, and we really appreciate this."

-Qijun

"I'm so proud to see everything my son can do in this space. Being here shows me how capable he is, and it's such a pleasure to learn alongside him."

-Joshua



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quality early childhood education and care

Jescott Montessori is proud to belong to the SA Montessori group. This organisation consists of seven centres united by shared values and a close-knit ownership team. We are not a franchise, we are a family! Learn more about us online or follow SA Montessori on Instagram or Facebook.

www.samontessori.com.au



Instagram



Facebook

 Montessori Child

Many of the tools, toys and treasures that inspire, engage and delight our Nido children come from Montessori Child. This online store, offering a carefully cultivated collection of resources that are harmonious with Montessori principles, is owned and operated by the SA Montessori group. If you'd like to learn more, or invest in some of these resources for your home, visit our website or follow us on Instagram or Facebook.

www.montessorichild.com.au



Instagram



Facebook