



PARENTS' GUIDE

Choosing the right Montessori environment for your child is important. Each school, centre or programme is run independently from the Montessori Australia Foundation and is either privately owned, part of a public school, or run by a non-profit association.

"Montessori" is not trademarked so it is possible for any school or centre to include the word "Montessori" in their name. Most "Montessori" schools or centres aim to offer a quality Montessori programme.

A national Montessori Quality Assurance Programme has been established to identify the Quality Standards for Montessori programmes and to support schools and centres in maintaining these standards. As a parent you can be assured that a school or centre that is part of the Montessori Quality Assurance Programme is committed to providing authentic Montessori programmes.

The Montessori Quality Assurance Programme is a supportive and positive means of continuous improvement by which schools and centres strive to ensure quality and best practice. The programme has three levels.

APPLIED – Have applied to the programme and committed to the Montessori Charter.

PARTICIPATING – Are participating in a mentoring programme to support implementation of the Quality Standards in preparation for an assessment visit.

REGISTERED – Have had an assessment visit and been assessed to be meeting the majority of Quality Standards.

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A signed Charter should be displayed which says the school or centre believes:

- All children have the right to an environment that is carefully prepared so that it meets and nurtures the developmental needs of each child.
- The child is an active participant in the learning process.
- Multi-age groups aligned with developmental planes provide for optimal social, emotional and cognitive learning.
- Self-discovery and exploration are important parts of the learning process.
- A non-competitive approach and the use of self-correcting materials promotes independence and self-confidence.
- The culturally diverse backgrounds of families and their active involvement in the centre enrich and foster a community that embraces tolerance and cooperation.

As a result of these beliefs, the school or centre strives to implement the Montessori Quality Standards.

For further information and a list of participating schools and centres, please visit the website montessori.org.au.