

MONTESSORI ECEC CONFERENCE

Friday to Sunday, 20-22 March 2015
Stamford Grand Adelaide Hotel, Glenelg



Sense and Sensitivities



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2015

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Welcome Reception – sponsored by Guild Insurance

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2015

8:00am – 8:45am

Registration & Exhibitors

8:45am – 9:00am

Conference Welcome – Christine Harrison and Barbara Langford

9:00am – 9:45am

Keynote Presentation: The 6th Sense – Common Sense: Olfactory, gustatory, auditory, tactile and visual – oh my! – [Cathy Swan](#)

We live in an age of sensorial dulling (plug-in scents in the home, yoghurts that mimic bubble gum and other improbable tastes), constant background noise in our homes (TV and music on) and outside (power lines, traffic), lack of hands-on activities and games and little or no time to “muck about” outside. There is a cornucopia of sights that are ever more sensational in the misinformed notion that only sensational things can catch the attention of a young child – we seem to have moved further afield from considerations of what is developmentally appropriate and – dare I say it: HEALTHY – for young children. I therefore propose we instate a 6th sense – *common sense* – into our every day practices as educators and as parents.

9:45am – 10:45am

Making Sense of the Brain: Using Neuroscience to Nurture a Healthy Developing Mind – [Associate Professor Michael Nagel](#)

Since the 1990s advances in technology and scientific research have offered new insights into the neurological development of children. As a result of this work all aspects of education and child care have been reinvigorated with greater understanding of how the brain grows and develops, how this might impact on behaviour and learning and ultimately how early experiences may shape who we become as we grow into adulthood. Worryingly, neuro-scientific research has also been used to perpetuate a number of neuro-myths focusing on enrichment and building ‘better brains’ or by suggesting that we can somehow hyper-stimulate development. This presentation focuses on debunking a number of those myths by making sense of brain research with a view to providing insights into doing what matters most for children and their developing minds.

10:45am – 11:30am

Morning Tea & Exhibitors

11:30am – 12:10pm

Making Sense of Sensory Integration – [Inclusive Directions](#)

During this session participants will:

- Explore the seven senses and the concept of sensory integration
- Identify their own sensory needs and reflect on the sensory needs of children in their setting
- Discover strategies to support a child’s sensory needs
- Consider how to provide a sensory rich environment

12:10pm – 12:15pm

Set-up for next session

12:15pm – 1:00pm

Exploring food through the senses – beyond soggy tomatoes and mushy peas – [Kerryn Boogaard](#)

Do you enjoy watery tomatoes? What about floury apples? How about mushy over-cooked broccoli? Didn’t think so! Why then should we make our kids eat these foods? When a child is young and developing they are impressionable, these experiences shape their future attitudes and behaviours. Food, eating, cooking and dining should excite so many senses. Food is a great way to engage children. The process of preparing and enjoying a meal should stimulate all five senses and create an experience that will help develop positive attitudes towards food and ultimately help build a healthy future. Join Kerryn from Sprout as she demonstrates how to make nutritious food look, smell and taste great to children. Kerryn will discuss important food safety policies in childcare and also help overcome environmental or individual barriers for food preparation at your facility.



SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2014 – CONTINUED

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Lunch

2:30pm – 3:10pm

Mud, Sticks and Birdsong: Sensory Benefits Associated with Children Interacting in the Natural World – Jason Tyndall

Sensory experiences in nature offer an incredible range of benefits to children. From the feel of mud, the affordances of a stick, to the unique sound of birdsong, there are benefits associated with cognitive development, empathy, nurture, imagination, creativity, sense of place, and an understanding of the natural world. This presentation will explore sensory benefits that nature offers children through the use of stories, imagery, and relevant research. It will also explore how authentic experiences in nature can translate into early learning settings.

3:10pm – 3:50pm

Developing a Sense of Wellbeing: The Importance of Connection and Relationships – Dr Gavin Hazel

What is our vision for children? Educators want the best possible outcomes for children regarding mental health, physical health, wellbeing, development, social functioning, capacity for learning and ability to reach their potential. Research suggests that a focus on social and emotional wellbeing for all children, from an early age, is associated with more positive behaviour, better academic achievement and improved mental health outcomes, in early childhood and later in life. This presentation will draw on theory and evidence from a range of projects working with families, carers, educators and policy makers to explore importance and role of relationships in developing a sense of wellbeing.

3:50pm – 4:10pm

Comfort Break & Exhibitors

4:10pm – 5:00pm

Sensing the Need to Move – Inspiring and Practical Ideas to Promote Music to Every Child, Every day! – Galina Zenin

Many studies show that music and movement have a direct impact on children's brain development and are critical for their lifelong health and ability to function well in society. In this highly interactive session, Galina will inspire participants and demonstrate how we can promote music and the need to move for Every Child, Every Day!

5:00pm – 5:10pm

Launch of new ACMS Montessori Professional Learning Series – Christine Harrison & Katie Denzin

5:15pm – 6:00pm

Wine and nibbles – Sponsored by SA Montessori

WORKSHOPS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – PRESENTED SUNDAY 22 MARCH

Suitable for anyone new to Montessori, Registration \$30

9.30am – 11.00am

Introduction to Montessori (Montessori 101)

– Susan Harris-Evans & Lisa Goodwin

Dr Maria Montessori, an inspirational educator, developed a unique method of education, based on research into childhood learning. The Montessori approach fosters children's love of learning and encourages independence by providing an environment of activities and materials which children use at their own pace. This builds self-confidence, inner discipline, a sense of self-worth and instills positive social behaviour. In today's world it is more important than ever that children become motivated individuals able to develop to their full potential. Montessori takes into account the whole child and his place in the community, hence its relevance for today and the future. This session is ideal for those new to Montessori.

11.45am – 12.45pm

Transitioning Montessori into Your Service

– Bernice Jarvis, Ainslee Roscrow & Melissa Wray

The Montessori Early Years Learning Programme (MEYLP) and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) form a perfect match. The EYLF articulates the quality outcomes for children that we should all be aspiring to achieve. Montessori provides the knowledge, the curriculum, the tools and the method to achieve those outcomes. As more ECEC centres across Australia search for ways to enhance their programs, many are being drawn to Montessori for the answer. Integrating Montessori practice into a mainstream childcare centre is challenging but possible. In this session participants will gain some insight into how to start their Montessori journey.



SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2015

8:30am – 9:30am

Exhibitors

Delegates select one of the following concurrent sessions to attend (sessions are continued after Morning Tea Break):

Session 3 before and after morning tea are suitable for anyone new to Montessori but all Conference delegates are welcome to attend.

9:30am – 11:00am

BREAKOUT SESSION 1: 0-3 Years

Meeting the developmental needs of the child under 3 – [Katherine Bussey & Peta Gibson](#)

This workshop will explore the physical and psychological needs of children under 3 and how the Montessori and Resources for Infant Education (RIE) approaches aim to meet their developmental needs.

The focus will be on the role of the prepared adult and enable and inspire educators to return to your schools and centres feeling confident that you can make a change without needing additional materials or support from management. The session will cut back to the core of Montessori and dovetail in the RIE approach which resonate so beautifully with each other.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 3-6 YEARS

A Journey Through the Senses – [Cathy Swan](#)

Come with me as we explore the senses and the materials that so eloquently enable explorations. Where can these explorations lead? Be amazed at the wonders of Montessori materials and the genius in their design!

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

Introduction to Montessori (Montessori 101) – [Susan Harris-Evans and Lisa Goodwin](#)

Dr Maria Montessori, an inspirational educator, developed a unique method of education, based on research into childhood learning. The Montessori approach fosters children's love of learning and encourages independence by providing an environment of activities and materials which children use at their own pace. This builds self-confidence, inner discipline, a sense of self-worth and instils positive social behaviour. In today's world it is more important than ever that children become motivated individuals able to develop to their full potential. Montessori takes into account the whole child and his place in the community, hence its relevance for today and the future. This session is ideal for those new to Montessori.

11:00am – 11:45am

Morning Tea & Exhibitors

11:45am – 12:45pm

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 CONTINUED: 0-3 Years

The Ideal Childcare Environment for Under Threes – [Katherine Bussey & Peta Gibson](#)

What is the optimum ECEC environment for children under 3. This session continues on from Katherine and Peta's earlier presentation and will enable plenty of discussion.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 CONTINUED: 3-6 YEARS

Connecting the Sensorial Curriculum to Real Life – [Cathy Swan](#)

Continuing the theme from Session 1, Cathy will explore why the sensorial curriculum is so important to connect children to real life.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

Transitioning Montessori into Your Service – [Bernice Jarvis, Ainslee Roscrow & Melissa Wray](#)

Montessori and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) form a perfect match. The EYLF articulates the quality outcomes for children that we should all be aspiring to achieve. Montessori provides the knowledge, the curriculum, the tools and the method to achieve those outcomes. As more ECEC centres across Australia search for ways to enhance their programs, many are being drawn to Montessori for the answer. Integrating Montessori practice into a mainstream childcare centre is challenging but possible. In this session participants will gain some insight into how to start their Montessori journey.

OPTIONAL SENSORIAL ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2015

OPTION 1

1:30pm – 4:00pm

MONTESSORI CENTRE VISITS:

- Hills Montessori School, Aldgate – www.montessori.sa.edu.au – 08 8339 6842 (own transport)
 - Chancery Lane Montessori School, Adelaide – www.amontessori.com.au – 08 8223 7323 (Glenelg tram)
 - Adelaide Montessori Early Learning Centre, Morphettville – www.adelaidemontessori.com.au – 08 8376 8812 (Taxi)
- * Please contact the centre directly to confirm your attendance

OPTION 2

1:30pm – 4:00pm

ADELAIDE MARKET TOUR AND COOKING EXPERIENCE/LUNCH (GLENELG TRAM)

This unique guided tour of the famous and historic Adelaide City Market will have you tasting local produce along the way and finding fresh produce for a fun cooking experience at the kitchens of the Sprout Cooking School. Hotel pick up and return. **Cost: \$85 per person (Limited to 20 people)**

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2015

7:00am – 7:30am

Yoga on the Beach – **Cost: \$8 per person payable to instructor**

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Hand Massages available during lunch – **FREE**

5:15pm – 6:00pm

Wine and nibbles – **FREE** – Sponsored by SA Montessori

6:30pm – 7:00pm

Twilight Zumba on the Beach with Tanya – **Cost: \$8 per person payable to instructor**

SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2015

7:15am – 8:00am

Drumming on the Foreshore with Adriana – **Cost: \$8 per person payable to instructor**

2:30pm

Group excursion tram ride to City Centre for shopping, art gallery visit etc.

SPONSORS

The Montessori Australia Foundation would like to thank the following sponsors:

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SENSE AND SENSITIVITIES SPEAKERS



KERRY BOOGAARD is an Accredited Practising Dietitian, Accredited Sports Dietitian and Credentialed Diabetes Educator from Nutrition Studio and Sprout Cooking. She aims to help people learn about food so they can eat for both health and enjoyment and build healthy relationships with food. Her cooking mantra is to keep it simple, fresh and seasonal, based on basic nutrition principles without the complication of recent fads.



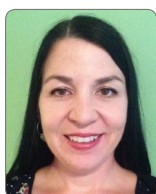
KATHERINE BUSSEY is a passionate infant and toddler specialist and advocate working on her PhD in Melbourne. She has spent the last 12 years actively learning about and developing practice in NZ early childhood education based on Magda Gerber's Educaring Approach and the Pikler approach.



KATIE DENZIN has lead the establishment of 0-3 Montessori programs across remote communities of the Torres Strait with MCF and the Torres Strait Islanders' Regional Education Council. With formal qualifications in Special Education (Autism) and Public Sector Management, Katie worked in a variety of roles in disability education and services before moving to the Torres Strait in 2007. Since then, she has overseen the establishment of a number of education services in the region – including a parent/child services "Strait Start" and a long day care centre. Whilst her current scope of work covers project management, strategic communications and childcare consultancy, her passion remains focused on ensuring all children in remote indigenous communities have access to Montessori education in their earliest years.



PETA GIBSON has an AMI Assistants to Infancy (0-3) Diploma and has been involved in Montessori education for 10 years. She has a special interest in infant and toddler development. Pursuing this passion has led her to also complete the RIE Foundations: Theory and Observation at the RIE Centre in Los Angeles in 2013 and the Pikler Summer Course for Professionals at the Pikler Institute in Budapest in 2014. She has also spent more than a decade living with each of her own five children when they were toddlers. They are now aged between 19 and 5. Peta is currently a Director of the Parent Toddler and Nido programme at the Inner Sydney Montessori School and Cameragal Montessori School.



LISA GOODWIN is an Early Childhood Teacher at The Hills Montessori School in the Adelaide Hills. She has enjoyed working in Montessori classrooms with 3-5 year olds since 2007. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor of Education Junior Primary /Primary.



CHRISTINE HARRISON has been involved in Montessori education since 1985 and was Principal of the Canberra Montessori School, one of the largest Montessori schools in Australia, for over ten years. She is the founding Chair of the Montessori Australia Foundation and was Chair of the Association of Independent Schools in the ACT and on the Board of the Independent Schools Council of Australia. Christine has been involved in policy development, compliance, student care, curriculum development and educational leadership in schools and has a background in mediation, conflict resolution, adult education and a particular interest in governance in community organisations. Christine is a senior consultant for the Montessori Australia Foundation.



SUSAN HARRIS-EVANS has been involved in Montessori education since 1987. She has worked at The Hills Montessori School, one of Australia's largest Montessori schools, for over ten years and currently holds the position of Assistant Principal. Susan is also chair of the Montessori Education Association of South Australia and is Regional Coordinator and senior lecturer for the Montessori Institute. Susan holds many qualifications in the field of education including a Diploma of Montessori Education and a Master of Education. She has been involved in adult education and curriculum development within the South Australian independent schools sector and has supported many schools as a consultant in Montessori education.



GAVIN HAZEL is the Program Manager with the Child, Youth and Wellbeing Program at the University of Newcastle. He works with the education sector (from early childhood to tertiary) to raise awareness about social and emotional wellbeing and translate research evidence into practice. For the last 8 years Gavin has lead a range of Commonwealth initiatives to support child and youth mental health and wellbeing. Gavin has held positions as an educator, research academic, a Commonwealth Senior Research Scientist and a Mental Health Projects Managers. He holds a conjoint appointment the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle.



INCLUSIVE DIRECTIONS is an independent, not for profit South Australian organisation with a proud history of promoting and supporting physical, educational, cultural and social inclusion. Inclusive Directions values diversity and provides education, advice and support services across a range of settings, predominantly in the early childhood sector. Inclusive Directions is committed to working with and supporting communities, organisations and individuals to create inclusive environments for all children.

SENSE AND SENSITIVITIES SPEAKERS



BERNIE JARVIS has a Diploma in Children's Services and an Advanced Diploma and Diploma of Montessori Studies. She is in the final stages of completing her Bachelor of Education: Early Childhood. She has extensive experience with all levels of early childhood education both here in Australia and in her time abroad. Bernie is also an experienced Montessori Trainer, having completed her TAE (Training, Assessing, Education) Award in 2012. Working alongside Denise Roscrow, Bernie developed and delivered Montessori Diploma units, enjoying an enviable reputation in the industry. Bernie is the proud mother of two adult boys, and loves nothing better than to potter in her productive garden.



BARBARA LANGFORD has been a Montessori teacher for the past 25 years during which time she has established six highly regarded Montessori ECEC centers in Adelaide. Barbara is a passionate advocate for raising the quality of education and care for young children. She spent many years as the President of both Childcare SA and also Childcare Associations Australia enabling her to champion at both a State and Federal Government level for the benefits of high quality early education for children. Barbara also runs a consultancy business called Montessori Management and Mentoring (MMM) through which she offers her expertise to assist others in the establishment of new centres and the training of staff. Barbara is the Manager of Montessori Early Childhood Australia (MECA), a division of the Montessori Australia Foundation.



MICHAEL NAGEL is an Associate Professor in the School of Education at the University of the Sunshine Coast where he teaches and researches in the areas of cognition, human development, behaviour and learning. He has written a number of journal articles and books related to neurological development in children and has delivered over 300 workshops and seminars for parents and teachers nationally and internationally. Nominated as Australian Lecturer of the Year each year since 2010, Dr Nagel has been a guest on 'Sunrise' and 'The Project', is a member of the prestigious International Neuropsychological Society, is the Queensland Director of the Australian Council on Children and the Media, sits on a number of education boards and committees and is a feature writer for the 'Child' series of magazines which offers parenting advice to more than one million Australian readers. When he is not busy professionally, he spends his time learning the important lessons of life from his own children, Madeline and Harrison.



AINSLEY ROSCROW holds a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, a Bachelor of Arts, an Advanced Diploma and Diploma of Montessori Studies. She has extensive experience with all levels of early childhood education. As the owner and managing director of Montessori Children's Centre, McLaren Vale she divides her time between classroom teaching, and office paperwork! Ainsley enjoyed an American Montessori education growing up, and has the luxury of Denise Roscrow as mother and mentor. Ainsley enjoys creative writing, and over the past 2 years has published of a selection of articles in Fleurieu Living Magazine, ranging from the importance of physical activity in the early years, to the pitfalls of parenting with praise. Ainsley is passionate about early childhood education, is raising 4 children of her own and is a dedicated community advocate who is proud to live and work in the glorious Fleurieu Peninsula.



CATHY SWAN has over 30 years of education experience as an administrator and teacher in Montessori schools and centres across America including five years as head of school at Inner Sydney Montessori School. She is an AMI Auxiliary Teacher Trainer, holds a Masters of Education specialising in Early Childhood, a Bachelor of Arts, and an AMI 3-6 Diploma. She is trained as a Parenting Skills Instructor is currently head of school at Beaverton Montessori School in Portland, Oregon.



JASON TYNDALL has worked in community development, conservation and environmental management over the past ten years and now leads a team of environmental educators as part of Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges' NRM Education program. A key component of the Jason's role is to convey the importance of nature for children in a range of education settings through assisting educators to plan, implement, and manage authentic nature experiences within their sites.



MELISSA WRAY is the Director of Chancery Lane Montessori Pre-school in Adelaide. She was instrumental in leading her team of educators to achieve a centre rating of 'Excellent' in 2014. Melissa has a Diploma of Montessori Education and is a passionate advocate for children interacting with their natural environment. Melissa provides many opportunities for children to explore beyond the boundaries of the centre through excursions and participation in the community. Melissa was awarded the Australian Families 'South Australian Director of the Year' in 2014.



GALINA ZENIN is an early childhood consultant, inspirational speaker, educator, qualified music and voice training teacher, author and composer. She writes her own music and brings to her music program a wealth of European and Australian experience and a high level of professionalism. In 2006 Galina founded Australia's first music kinder – Bonkers Beat® Music Kinder in Brighton East, Victoria which was selected for the E4Kids study conducted by the University of Melbourne in partnership with the DEECD (Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, Victoria, Australia). In 2012, the Bonkers Beat Music Kinder received – Exceeding NQS. She has established herself as one of Australia's most innovative Early Childhood Educators and has presented at a number of conferences in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan.

SENSE AND SENSITIVITIES ACCOMMODATION & REGISTRATION

STAMFORD GRAND ADELAIDE HOTEL, GLENELG



HOTEL FACILITIES

The Stamford Grand Adelaide Hotel, Glenelg, is one of the best luxury accommodations in Glenelg Adelaide.

Located on absolute beachfront in Glenelg with all the facilities and services you expect at a Stamford Hotel and is an ideal base to discover all that Glenelg and Adelaide have to offer.

The Glenelg accommodation is perfect for those who are looking for a beachside location that is close to Adelaide's special events, yet out of the city!

ACCOMMODATION

Delegates are to book their accommodation directly with the hotel, asking for the conference rate discount. Rates vary depending on the room type.

REGISTER online at montessori.org.au or fill in and return the form below

| RATES | SUBSCRIBERS* | NON-SUBSCRIBERS |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 day Conference including Welcome Reception | \$440 | \$550 |

PREFERENCES:

Welcome Reception – Friday, 20 March at 6:00pm-7:30pm

☐ Yes

☐ No

Sunday Breakout Sessions Preference – please select one:

☐ 0-3

☐ 3-6

☐ New to Montessori

OPTIONAL SENSORIAL ACTIVITIES:

OPTION 1 – Montessori Centre Visits ☐ Yes – FREE – Please contact the centre directly to confirm your attendance ☐ No

OPTION 2 – Adelaide Market Tour and Cooking Experience/Lunch ☐ Yes (extra \$85 – limit 20 people) ☐ No

*Discounted rates for Montessori Australia Foundation Individual Subscribers or Staff and Parents of School/Centre Subscribers.

Name: _____

School: _____

Position: _____

Home Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone - Home: _____

Phone - Mobile: _____

Phone - Work: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate if you have special dietary requirements:

☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Other _____

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \$_____ (GST included)

Cheques payable to the Montessori Australia Foundation.
ABN: 46 104 887 309

Payment Method: ☐ Cheque Or: ☐ Invoice School

Or charge my: ☐ Visa Card ☐ Mastercard

Cardholder's Name: _____

Card N°: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Please see our website for our cancellation and refund policy.

Phone: 02 9986 2282 Fax: 02 9986 2281

Email: events@montessori.org.au

Register online or send registration form to:

Montessori Australia Foundation, 3 Myoora Rd Terrey Hills NSW 2084