



ME Foundation

A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH MONTESSORI EDUCATION

*The child is both a hope and
a promise for mankind.*

Maria Montessori



If children, through their education, are encouraged to be active citizens, allowed to consider carefully their own values and beliefs, and have acquired a solid base of knowledge, then their future is infinitely brighter. Montessori education from its very roots has the capacity to guide children to reach their full potential.

*Jackie Vidor
Chairperson*

WHAT IS THE ME FOUNDATION?

The ME Foundation was created in 2011 to expand the reach of Montessori education.

The ME Foundation will support the growth and development of Montessori East and other related programs committed to the principles and practices of Montessori education.

The current goals of the ME Foundation are to:

- Establish and maintain a continuity of connections through Montessori East alumni students and parents
- Support Montessori East by ensuring that it has a solid foundation on which to make decisions for the future
- Offer more children the opportunity for a Montessori education via the scholarship fund.

These goals of growth and diversity are key to the strategic plan of Montessori East and will underpin the work of the Foundation.

BOARD AND GOVERNANCE

The ME Foundation is a Public Ancillary fund - a type of Trust that is eligible for endorsement by the Australian Tax Office allowing tax-deductible gift recipient status. The ME Foundation will receive tax-deductible donations, with funds allocated to one of the three established funds at the discretion of the Foundation Board.

- The Montessori East Scholarship Fund,
- The Montessori East Building Fund and
- The Montessori East Library Fund.

The Foundation Board is guided by a committee of voluntary members who oversee its vision, governance and administration.

Current board members:
Jackie Vidor (Chairperson)
Simon Bassett
Georgina Byron
David Hendler
Nick Tobias

WHO WAS MARIA MONTESSORI?

Maria Montessori understood that education can be a major determinant in our children's future. As a result she developed an education method that empowers children by treating them as competent beings, fully capable of making their own decisions and discoveries, allowing them to realize their full human potential.

Born in 1870, Dr. Montessori was a gifted scholar who became the first woman in Italy to graduate as a doctor. She was committed to the health care of women and children and became well known throughout Europe as an advocate of social reform through education. In 1904, Dr. Montessori was appointed to the University of Rome as a professor in the fields of anthropology and pedagogy.

As a scientist, Montessori was trained to observe natural phenomena and she used this training to observe the children in her care. Her observations and research led her to develop materials and teaching techniques that had a great effect on the learning ability of the children.

In 1907, she opened the first 'Casa dei Bambini' (The Children's House) in a poor area in Rome, Italy. She further refined the materials and lessons based on the interest of the children – materials and lessons that were hands-on and enticing to the children. She not only taught the children the traditional academic subjects, but also practical life skills and social graces that prepared the children for successful interaction with the world around them. This first Montessori school, and the others that soon followed, had an extraordinary impact on educators throughout the world. Dr Montessori was honoured in many countries and this resulted in a period of rapid expansion in the Montessori approach to education. The momentum of her work was sadly interrupted by the two world wars, but despite this she left a worldwide legacy that flourishes today.

In 1949 Dr. Montessori received the first of three nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize and above all she dedicated herself to the development and wellbeing of children everywhere.

Preventing conflict is the work of politics; establishing peace is the work of education.

*Maria Montessori
Nobel prize nominee
1949, 1950 and 1951*





MONTESSORI EDUCATION

The idea behind Maria Montessori's teaching method is a simple one: use the child's natural curiosity and love of learning to help them develop intellectually, socially, emotionally and spiritually. It is a holistic education in every sense, but one that has firm roots in scientific research, strong principles and very specific methods. The characteristics of a Montessori classroom are:

- Mixed age classrooms: This allows younger children to learn from older ones, and for older children to learn positive leadership and the satisfaction of assisting younger ones. Usually children are in the same classroom for 3 years.
- Students choose an activity from carefully selected options involving specialised educational materials developed by Dr Montessori.
- Students work in large blocks of time allowing them to become fully absorbed in learning, uninterrupted by bells and set periods.

- The child learns concepts through a process of discovery, enticed by an environment of beautiful materials, individual or small group presentations, and freedom to choose work based on their interests.

This very particular environment encourages independence and creative, critical thinking. It respects the child's natural psychological development by offering freedom with limits, and the optimal environment for self-construction. Students are self-motivated, quietly self-confident and curious. These are qualities that extend far beyond the classroom and serve to connect the child to the world we live in, genuinely preparing them for life.

The world has changed and we can no longer follow the same path in education. Montessori's approach to education is unique, far-reaching and totally relevant to the needs of the 21st century.

*Bill Conway
Principal Montessori East*

A LITTLE ABOUT MONTESSORI EAST

Montessori East is a small independent primary and pre-school in Wellington Street, Bondi committed to providing an education model that is truly focused on the development of each child. This is only possible in the unique environment of a Montessori school.

The rich and comprehensive curriculum is based on the highest standard Montessori program recognised internationally; it also incorporates all outcomes from the NSW Board of Studies syllabus.

Attention to the physical environment of the school has been a high priority, providing students with a home away from home, where beauty and function come together in a classroom that looks and feels like no other.

*Learning to know,
Learning to do,
Learning to live together,
Learning to be.*

*UNESCO
Four Pillars of Education.*





WHY GIVE

Your donations will provide more children with the opportunity for a Montessori education.

It will ensure that Montessori East can grow and enhance the experience it offers current and future families.

It will also provide real assistance to children of families who may otherwise not have access to Montessori schooling.

By supporting the Foundation, Montessori East will continue to flourish and enrich the lives of young children in their most formative and impressionable years.

A Montessori education has to be one of the greatest gifts a parent can give their child - and other children too.

My strongest memory of Montessori is the fun I had during my 7 years there. Although I was unaware at the time, I can now appreciate the values and capabilities instilled in me by the stimulating, supportive and encouraging environment.

HOW TO GIVE

All contributions are greatly appreciated and tax deductible. One-off donations or regular contributions can be arranged.

Donations can be made:

- a.** by completing the attached form (and enclosing a cheque or your credit card details) or
- b.** online at www.montessori.nsw.edu.au or
- c.** by calling us on 02 9130 8313 (with your credit card details).

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have in relation to the Foundation.

*Shane Hendler, age 19
University of Sydney Psychology student*

