



KIN

TODDLER PROGRAM

Welcome Pack

UNDER 3 PROGRAM
MONTESSORI EAST



ME
Montessori East
Primary & Pre School

KIN

means

οἰκονομία
خانواده ครอบครัว
famille 가족
rodzina aile gia đình
familj משפחה 家庭
family
משפחה gezin famiglia
usra familia семья 家族
Familie obitelj cим'я
عائلة rodina
perhe

Montessori East acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land on which our children play and learn. We pay our respects to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, and all Elders past, present and emerging.

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"The greatest development is achieved during the first years of life, and therefore it is then that the greatest care should be taken."

Dr Maria Montessori

TODDLER PROGRAM

Welcome to the Toddler Program, designed for families with children aged 18-36 months. This one of a kind program for both the child and the adult has been described by families as a transformative parenting experience.

What's included

8 x 1.5 hour weekly group FACE2FACE SESSIONS

Each session is divided into two parts; time spent in the Kin Playspace and a Carer's Circle. The order of the parts depends on the time of your session.

Session 1 9:00-10:30am

- 8:50am Kin Garden is open
- 9:00am Kin Playspace doors open
- 10:15am Carer's Circle

Session 2 10:00-11:30am

- 10:00am Carer's Circle
- 10:20am Kin Garden is open
- 10:30am Kin Playspace doors open

Covid-safe checkin: All adults coming on site must sign the attendance book found by the entrance and the register with the NSW QR code.

1 x NATURE WALK

A weekend walk so the whole family can come. Learn a new way of being outside with your child. Come and meet other Kin attendees and build your community of like minded families.

3 months access to the ON DEMAND VIDEO LIBRARY

Access the library of Kin Masterclasses. Each video is under 30 mins and offers a deeper understanding of childhood development from the ages of birth to six years.

2 x 30 min MASTERCLASSES + live Q&A

Join us live on Zoom for two 30 min masterclasses followed by a Q&A where you can have all of your questions answered by trained Montessori guides. Classes are available to re-watch in the On Demand library. NB: The Q&A section is not recorded for privacy reasons.

Face2Face Sessions

Sessions are divided into two parts with time spent in the Kin Playspace and a Carer's Circle; each serving a different purpose.

The Kin Playspace

This is your chance to **SLOW DOWN**.

Unlike at home where you might play with your child, the hour or so spent in the Kin Playspace is your chance to sit back and observe your child.

Watch how the Montessori guides interact with children.

Listen to their language and see how they manage conflict situations.

A Guide for Adults while in the Kin Playspace

S **SIT** down, ground yourself in the space and breathe.

L **LISTEN** & minimise talking - unless first engaged by a child or guide.

O **OBSERVE** your child.

W **WRITE** down your observations or simply **WATCH** intently.

D **DO NOT DISTURB**. Protect their concentration.

O **OBSERVE** yourself - how does it feel to sit back and let go?

W **WONDER** and marvel at your child's incredible development.

N **NOW** is where we are - be in the present moment.

What to expect

Remove shoes before entering the Playspace. Model sitting down to remove your shoes. Place them with your valuables on the shelf. Give your child time to remove their shoes & socks. Help only if needed.

Phones on silent and leave them on the shelf outside. Please move outside if you need to receive a call or respond to a text.

Kin Garden: Your child is welcome to visit to the garden at any time during the session. Please sit on a green stool & only intervene if necessary for safety.

Kin Playspace: Once inside, find a comfortable floor cushion to sit on. Ask a guide if you require a stool. We carefully set up the space taking into account the group's developmental needs & interests. The space is for the children to explore, so we ask that you remain in your spot, unless your child needs the bathroom or to go outside. The Kin guides will move around the room, guiding, modelling and observing the children. Please only intervene if necessary for safety.

Kin Workbook: You will receive a workbook to write your observations & notes. Each week you will find a new article on childhood development. These articles provide a focus for your observations & guide your Carer's Circle discussions. Feel free to write in your native language.

Singing: We always finish in the Playspace with singing. Your child does not have to join in. It is a choice. Some children choose to watch, join in or continue playing. Once the singing is finished, please move to the veranda. Put your own shoes on before helping your child. The guides will help children who are reluctant to leave.

Three Rules of Intervention

Please intervene if your child is going to:

1. hurt themselves,
2. hurt someone else, or
3. damage something.

Please keep these rules in mind while you are at Kin.

Before you intervene, ask yourself if any of the things above are going to happen.

Unless necessary, it is best to sit back and allow things to unfold.

Watch what the guides do and observe how your child reacts and responds.



The Carer's Circle

The Carer's Circle is your chance to SHARE. Feel free to debrief about the session, ask questions about the articles & bring up anything that has happened during your week. A Montessori Guide will lead the discussions. Please bring along a snack for you & your child to have during this time. The Circle is held outside in the courtyard area. In case of inclement weather an alternate space will be announced.

During the Carer's Circle

S NACK: Nourishment is important. Bring along a packed snack and drink for you and your child (no nuts please).

H ONE your understanding and go a little deeper into the topic raised in the article of the week. Your guide will lead the discussion.

A NALYSE what happened in your session. You could ask questions about an interaction, the setup, or share an observation that you made.

R AISE any issues that occurred at home. Our Circle does not have to be limited to the weekly articles. Other people are often having the same struggles at home. It can be helpful to discuss them here.

E MBRACE your little growing community of like minded families. When you are ready, we encourage you to share your contact details with each other and organise catchups and playdates outside of our sessions.

An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking: it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live.

Dr Maria Montessori
Education and Peace





About the Venue

LOCATION: 8 Wellington Street, Bondi, NSW.

PARKING: Free street parking is available on Wellington Street. Check the signs for time restrictions. There is also a 2hr free Wilson's car park at the bottom of Wellington Place.

ENTER THE SCHOOL: Via the courtyard. Please do not enter via the staff car park.

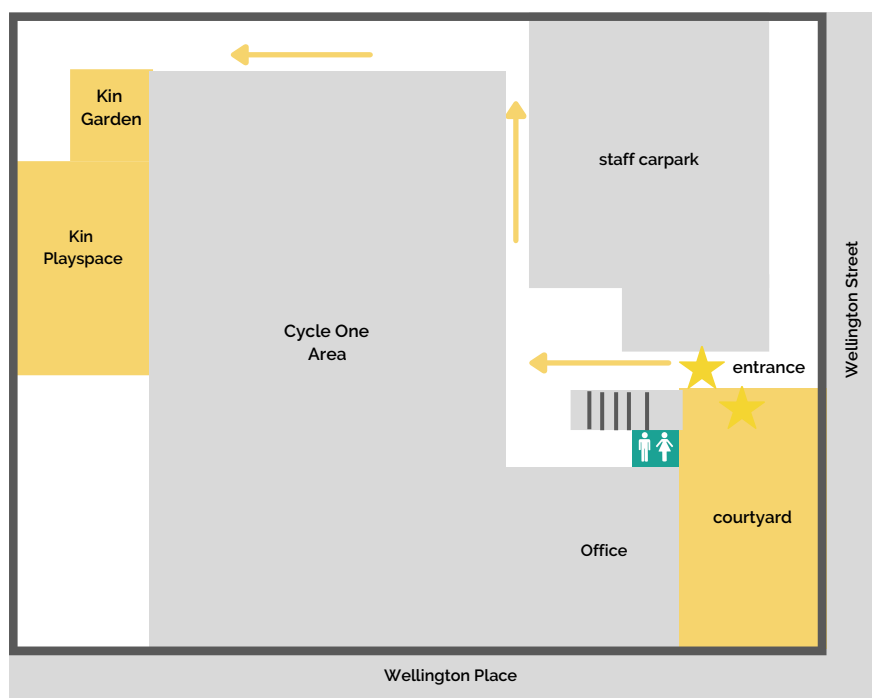
REGISTRATION: **You must sign into the school via the book found by the entrance & the QR code.** This accounts for all adults on the school premises in case of an emergency & is a legal requirement.

TOILET: Located behind the stairs near the office.

PRAMS: Pram parking is available outside the Kin garden or by the office in the case of rain. There are limited spaces available, so it is best to leave the pram in the car if possible.

KIN: Please be mindful of the other classes as you come to Kin. Keep children to the path and avoid entering the Cycle 1 preschool area.

VALUABLES: There is a place for your belongings on the veranda outside the Kin Playspace. Please leave phones outside and remove shoes before entering. Children should also remove their socks to avoid slipping over.



Nature Walk

*"Let the children be free;
let them run outside when it is
raining; let them remove their shoes
when they find a puddle of water
and when the grass of the meadows
is damp with dew."*

Dr Maria Montessori

Each term the whole family is invited to a nature walk. Our aim is to show you a new way of being outside with your child. We will walk, have a snack and then finish off with some singing. It's also a great opportunity to meet other Kin families and build your community.

While playgrounds are good, it is important to balance your child's outdoor time with unstructured play and walks in nature.

We will be moving slowly and at your child's pace. We will model how to consciously let nature enter through our ears, eyes, nose, mouth, hands and feet. We will listen to the birds singing and the breeze rustling in the leaves of the trees. We will notice the different greens and the sunlight filtering through the branches. Smell the fragrance of nature and taste the freshness of the air. We will touch the trunks of trees and collect sticks and fallen leaves. We will be still and let the land talk to us.

The walk will go ahead in all weather, if it is safe to do so, following the lovely Norwegian saying of "there is no bad weather, just bad clothes". Going outside in different kinds of weather builds resilience. "It saves [our children] from spending a life merely tolerating the bad days in favour of a handful of good ones, a life of endless expectation and conditions where happiness hinges on sunshine" (Nicolette Souder).

You will be advised of the date and location of the walk in the first few weeks of term.



On Demand Library

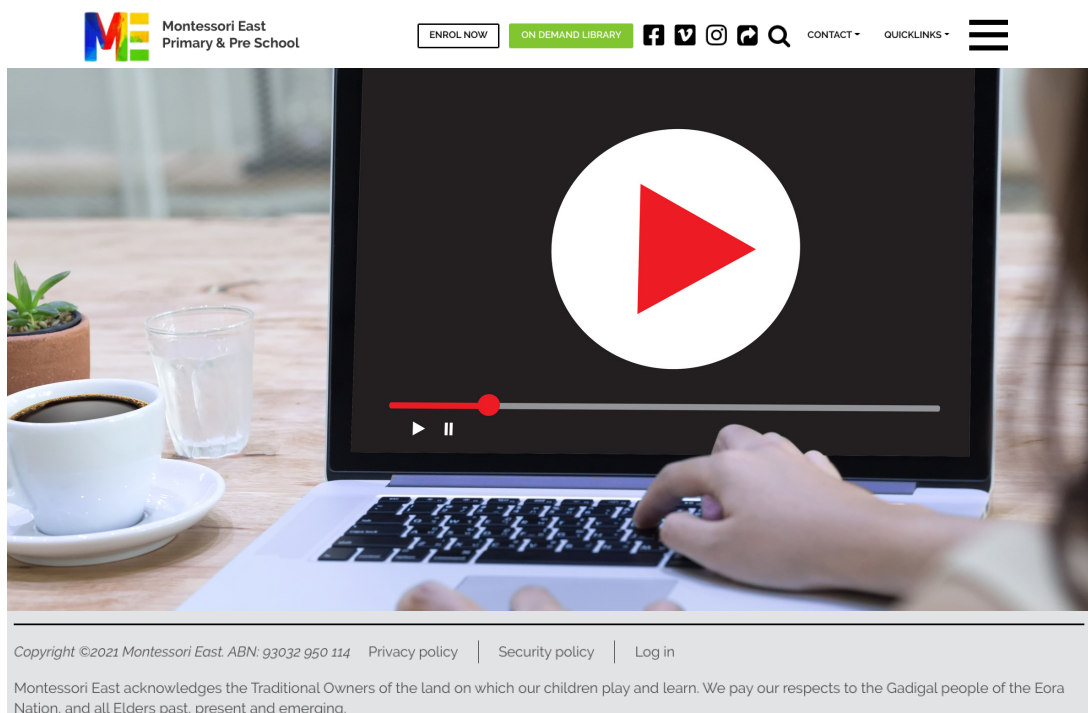
The Kin On Demand video library holds a catalogue of all of the Kin Masterclasses. The masterclasses offer a deeper understanding of childhood development from the ages of 0-6 years.

Delivered by one of our experience Montessori educators, each class uses simple to understand language and gives practical suggestions that can be implemented immediately at home. With topics covering toilet learning, sharing, anxiety and food, you will find a class to suit you. Friends outside of the program can purchase access [here](#).

How to Access

1. Visit www.montessori.nsw.edu.au
2. Scroll the bottom of the page and click 'Log in'.
3. Enter your user name (firstname.lastname) and password. Try resetting your password if you are having difficulty.
4. Click on the On Demand Library button and choose your class.

Access will start two weeks before and end two weeks after the scheduled Face2Face sessions. Watch [this](#) clip for more information on how to log on.



Masterclasses

The Kin Masterclasses go deeper into topics explored in the face2face parenting modules.

As they are run virtually, the masterclasses are easy and accessible for parents, nannies, grandparents and others to learn more about the child under 6 years of age. All of our masterclasses are recorded and available to view on our On Demand Library. Friends outside of the program can purchase access [here](#).

There are two masterclasses each term.
Each masterclass includes:

1. 30 min Zoom masterclass
2. Q&A facilitated by Montessori guides
3. You will be emailed the login details before the classes.

Commonly Asked Questions

A: Should I bring a change of clothes?

Yes, it is a good idea to have a change of clothes as there is a lot of activities that use water.

Q: I am not sure how I should interact with my child while in the KIN Playspace.

A: Be human :) and respond when your child interacts with you. The key is to not be the one initiating the interaction.

Here are some examples of situations that might come up and suggestions on how to respond.

CHILD: "Come here mummy/daddy..."

YOU: Acknowledge your child's wish - "You want me to come with you, I understand. This is where I sit at Kin." or "You can come to me if you want, yes I am sitting here."

CHILD: "Help"

YOU: Acknowledge - "I can see you want some help. That's okay, Prue will be with you in a little while." or "You can ask Rachael for help if you need it." "Tea is just there, she can help."

If your child is calling for you across the room ...Make eye contact and smile - allow a few quiet moments to pass and your child may come to you or silently beckon them to you.

Q: What happens if my child gets hungry or thirsty?

Food is a good opportunity for your child to use their hands, so there will be a small amount of food available for your child to prepare. Filtered water is also available in the Kin Playspace. Your child can a snack during the Carer's Circle, so there is not too much time to wait if they do not like what is on offer in the Playspace.

Q: We have just started wearing underwear. Should we wear nappies to KIN just in case?

A: Please continue to wear underwear at KIN. We will support you during this journey. Just bring along a few changes of clothes. We have a special cleaning basket for any misses, so don't worry.

Q: My child does not seem to be able to concentrate.

A: That is okay. The more we let them engage with something without interrupting, the better their concentration will become.

Q: My child only plays with the water every session.

A: Water is a great way to educate the mathematical mind. They are learning about volume, the qualities of liquid and cause and effect. Let them play :) The repetition is teaching them something - it is just not obvious to us.

Q: How many children per session?

A: Seven is the maximum number of children per session.

Q: What do I do if my child is sick and cannot make a face2face session?

A: Email under3@montessori.nsw.edu as soon as possible. The earlier we are notified the better.

Q: Are there make up sessions?

A: No. There is however, an unofficial internal system where vacant spots can be offered to people who have missed a Face2Face session. Please email under3@montessori.nsw.edu.au for more information.

Q: Can my nanny bring my child to the Face2Face sessions?

A: Yes. Any carer is welcome to bring your child to Kin. Please have them read through pages 4&5 of this booklet before they come, so they know what to expect.

Q: Is the food that the children prepare for snack organic?

A: All of the food offered is organic. Most of it is sourced from Green Gradz which is a Montessori East student run organic fruit and vegetable coop.

Q: What is Green Gradz?

A: Green Gradz is a Montessori East student run organic fruit and vegetable coop. Boxes are \$65 each. All profits go to the Dalaigur School, which is an independent Indigenous owned community pre-school in Kempsey that we support. Email greengradz@montessori.nsw.edu.au to get your trial box.

Q: Can I bring a sibling or a babe in arms to the session?

A: Twins can come together to the same session. Alternate arrangements need to be made for older or younger siblings, including babes in arms as they cannot be brought into the Face2Face sessions.

Q: Does enrolment in Kin put me on the waitlist for the preschool?

A: No.

Q: Could I talk to a guide one-on-one?

A: Yes. Whether you have had a new sibling arrival, have some behavioural issues or are wanting help setting up a room, we have parenting experts available for a chat. Private consults can be purchased [here](#).

Q: What age should I enrol to come to the Montessori East Preschool?

A: Montessori East is a small school and places are limited. It is best to get on the waitlist as early as possible. We recommend filling in the enrolment form as soon as you start coming to Kin.

Q: How do I enrol in the pre-school?

A: Enrolment forms can be completed online at montessori.nsw.edu.au



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Primary & Pre School

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MONTESSORI EAST
8 Wellington Street, Bondi, NSW 2026
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