



Habitat Hub

Special Edition October 2015

Montessori Education at Habitat Early Learning

Since 2009 our Parkview Montessori program has grown from strength to strength and has proven to be an exceptional methodology in our own centre as well as worldwide. Demand for the program has grown in recent years and in order to be responsive to the needs of the Habitat Community, we will extend our Montessori Program in 2016.

From January 2016, our current '**Dragonfly**' Room will become a Montessori Kindergarten Program. In the first instance the room arrangement and philosophy will change, and then early in 2016 a minor renovation will take place to physically connect the room with our existing Montessori Centre. There are several advantages to this change:

- We are better able to accommodate all families wishing to enrol their children in the Montessori program
- Children enrolled in the Montessori Kindergarten Program will have better access to age appropriate outdoor spaces

For those families who are not using the Montessori program, little change will be experienced. Our **Gecko** room will continue to have a 'pre-kindy' focus, and in the year before school children will move into our **Python** or **Treefrog** classrooms for their kindergarten year. Families who haven't previously been able to consider the Montessori programs due to the extensive wait list may now like to consider this option.

About the Montessori Program

Montessori was an inspirational and successful Educational Leader who used her specialised knowledge as a physician, scientist and educator to develop a transformational approach to education built around children's natural curiosity and energy to be intrinsic learners. The fundamental belief is that the child, who is an involved learner, is working at their own level and progressing towards independence while being extended within their own pace and capabilities. You will often hear a child in Montessori saying about their play: "This is my work and these are my materials". Our environments are structured to stimulate calm, purposeful engagement.

Our Montessori programs build on the strengths of play and are structured around five key learning areas: practical life, sensorial, cultural, language and math. Our highly skilled educators use specialised targeted equipment within these structured areas that are concrete and sensorial in nature and work in harmony with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and the Queensland Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines (QKLG).

While many children go on to enrol in a Montessori school, many move most successfully into mainstream schools, equipped with the disposition and skills for further learning.

In 2016 Habitat will offer the following Montessori programs:

Biggie Billa 1 & 2: catering for children from 15 months to three years

Arinya: catering for children from two to three years

Garrill: Montessori Kindergarten Program (existing Dragonfly Classroom)

Next Thursday evening we will be hosting an information evening for parents interested in finding out a little more about Montessori Education. We look forward to showcasing our Montessori Programs at this time. Please register your interest at events@habitatlearning.com.au

