



# MONTESSORI QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME

## PARENTS' GUIDE

Choosing the right Montessori environment for your child is important. Each school or centre is run independently and is either privately owned or run by a non-profit association.

Australia does not yet have a national programme for accrediting Montessori schools, however, if a school or centre is part of the Montessori Australia Foundation (MAF) Montessori Quality Assurance Programme it indicates a commitment to providing authentic Montessori programmes and experiences.

The Montessori Quality Assurance Programme (MQAP) is not an accreditation process but rather a supportive and positive means of continuous improvement by which schools and centres strive to ensure quality and best practice.

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

- That all children have the right to an environment which 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 which 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](http://montessori.org.au)

During the transition phase of the programme from 2011 to 2013, participating schools and centres will all have the status "Applied" which is shown next to their website listing. From 2013, those who have demonstrated commitment to the programme and successfully completed Quality Improvement Plans will be listed with the MQAP logo showing their current status.

