



*“Within the child, lies the fate of the future. Dr Maria Montessori”*

## Prospectus

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## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Dear Prospective Parents

A warm welcome to our Montessori family! You are about to embark upon an exciting and life changing journey, that brings together the individual child, the family and the school, through our unique Montessori pedagogy.

It is a great privilege to share with you our vision, mission and ethos of our school.

HeadStart Montessori is a family run school, which focuses on the children in our environment, which is a home away from home. While we consciously prepare our children for life and aim to develop future citizens who care for and will contribute meaningfully to the community and environment, we enjoy watching the children grow from strength to strength, gaining independent, self-acceptance, curiosity and knowledge of the world, as well as gaining a love for learning.

HeadStart Montessori is a nurturing and safe environment, where each child and family are part of a family unit, where children develop and grow into independent and confident critical thinkers of tomorrow as our environments are peaceful and conducive to effective learning.

*"Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world."*

*Dr Maria Montessori*

We believe that you will find a place for your child and your family within our school. We look forward to partnering with you, where your child and his/her well-being are our main priority and focus.

Kind regards,

Mashoto Mgiba  
Principal

## ABOUT US

HeadStart Montessori Pre-School is a model, multicultural community, dedicated to promoting quality Montessori education for children from the age of 18 months to six years. We are a small school, situated in Craigavon, Fourways, providing a homey, safe and nurturing environment. We have a child-centered and holistic approach to learning, where each child has the ability to move freely and explore all areas of learning. We identify each child's potential and strengths and nurture them by giving them the prospective to flourish and become independent and confident young people.

HeadStart Montessori provides an environment where each child has a passion for excellence in the things that they do and scholarship; where our children have a deeply internalized set of core values and a sense of being part of the family of humanity. We focus on the Montessori teachings of our Cosmic task, which is a commitment of service back to the community and to people known and unknown.

We aim to lead and guide children into becoming integrated, independent and fully functional adults, who will be instrumental in the future of our country, and we live by the motto "Help me to do it myself", - Dr. Maria Montessori.

HeadStart Montessori is a proud member of the Independent Schools Association of South Africa (ISASA).

*"We discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being."*-

*Dr Maria Montessori*

## THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

The Montessori classroom is structured in such a way that the child has the ability to move freely without any limitations. The child has the ability to work with all the didactic materials, exploring through his/her senses. The Montessori Directress is there as a guide, to direct and guide the child whenever such is needed. The Directress sets the tasks for the children and the children direct themselves to accomplish the tasks set before them.

*“Scientific observation then has established that education is not what the teacher gives; education is a natural process spontaneously carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words but by experiences upon the environment.” - Maria Montessori, Education for a New World*

HeadStart Montessori comprises of two environments, the Toddler environment and the Pre-Primary environment. Our Toddler environment caters for children aged 15 months – 2 ½ or 3 years, with a ratio of 1:12. The environment has equipment which caters for the needs of the toddler child, which enables the toddler child to move and develop at his/her own ability, thus gaining independence. Our Pre-School environment caters for children from 2 ½ or 3 years till 6 years. In our Pre-School environment there is not grade allocation, however, our children are vertically grouped between the ages 2 ½ till 6 years. The ratio in this environment is 1:15.

All our learning areas are prepared and aid the child in the learning process. Everything was made to be as easily accessible to the children as possible. It is very much their environment rather than the guides, thus the children are made to feel as comfortable as possible within it.

## AREAS OF LEARNING

At HeadStart Montessori, there are 6 areas of learning and the children have the freedom to explore and work with materials in all the areas.

- Practical Life – Elementary movement, Care of self, Care of the environment and Grace and Courtesy.
- Sensorial – Visual discrimination, Auditory discrimination, Tactile discrimination, Olfactory, Baric and Gustatory sense.
- Algebra and Geometry

- Language
- Mathematics
- Culture – Botany, Zoology, History, Geography, Music and Art

### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MONTESSORI AND TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

| Montessori  | Traditional  |
|---|--|
| Follow the child  | Follow the curriculum.   |
| Guide has a discreet role in the environment  | The teacher is the center of the classroom as a controller.                  |
| Environment and method encourage self-discipline.   | The teacher acts as the primary enforcer of discipline.                      |
| Mixed aged groups   | Same age grouping.   |
| Grouping encourages children to teach and help each other.                                      | Most of the teaching is done by the teacher.                                 |
| Children choose their own order of work.  | Children are assigned a specific time and order of subjects.                 |
| Children set their own learning pace.   | Instruction pace is usually set by the group norm.                           |
| Children work in a three year work cycle  | Children work in a one year cycle.   |
| Children discover concepts through self-directed materials and activities usually on their own. | Children are taught concepts by the teacher – usually in a group             |
| children spot their own errors from feedback from the materials                                 | The teacher points out errors.   |
| Children reinforce their own learning by repetition of work and internal feelings of success.   | Learning is reinforced externally by rewards.                                |
| Multi-sensory materials are available for physical exploration.                                 | Fewer materials available for sensory development.                           |
| Children can work where they choose, move around and talk at will (without disturbing others).  | Children are usually assigned their own desk and chair.                      |
| Group participation is encouraged but never forced.   | Group participation is usually compulsory.                                   |
| Physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs are of equal importance.          | Emphasis falls on social and intellectual development.                       |
| All children are treated equally and have the same privileges.                                  | Some children are placed above others and have more privileges (eg prefects) |

## 2019 FEES

HeadStart Montessori is a private school that solely depends on school fees.

Enrolment fee of R 4 000.00 (Non-refundable and payable upon acceptance)

| <b>Monthly fee</b> | <b>Termly fee</b> | <b>Annual fee</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| R 4 700.00         | R 18 800.00       | R 56 400.00       |

School fees are inclusive of two intermural activities once a week.

Above fees are for Half Day

Full Day/Aftercare is available at an additional cost.

## 2019 SCHOOL TERMS

HeadStart Montessori follows the ISASA Central Region three-term calendar

| <b>Term 1</b>  | <b>Term 2</b>  | <b>Term 3</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January –<br>Friday 12 April                              | Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday<br>8 <sup>th</sup> August                       | Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September –<br>Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December                          |
| <b>Mid Term Break</b><br>Thursday 21 February –<br>Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February | <b>Mid Term Break</b><br>Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June – Monday<br>8 <sup>th</sup> July | <b>Mid Term Break</b><br>Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October –<br>Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October |

School is closed during the Mid-term Breaks.

Holiday care is offered during the first and second term school holidays at an additional cost.

## **ANNUAL STATIONERY FEE – (Additional Fee)**

HeadStart has an annual stationery fee of R 700.00 per learner. All paint, pencils, books, scissors, glue, paper, etc., is purchased from this stationery fee. The annual stationery fee will be invoiced along with the January school fees at the

beginning of each year. Please note that this is a compulsory fee that is applicable to all learners.

### WITHDRAWAL POLICY

HeadStart Montessori asks for a 1 term (4 months) written notice to be given when leaving the school. Failure to do so will result in you having to pay a whole term (4 months) school fees.

### SCHOOL HOURS

HeadStart opens at 7:00 (Summer days, 7 days a week) and 07:30 (Winter days, 7 days a week). Our structured work cycle starts at 8:30.

Half day is until 13:30

Aftercare is offered until 17:30

### EXTRA MURALS OFFERED

Little kickers

Music Box

Dance with Soul (Ballet)

Kidz Karate

Build em Bricks

Spash swimming School (Chartwell)

### CONTACT DETAILS

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