

Elonera Montessori Philosophy of Early Childhood and School Ages Education and Care Services

Our Mission: Working together to help our children to help themselves.
Education in Harmony with Life.

Our Vision:

To contribute to the development of the citizens of the world through our service to the child by providing a quality Montessori Early Years Program in a safe, inclusive, well-prepared, productive and sustainable environment that encourages active involvement with our wonderfully diverse families and staff.

Our Program rests on the following objectives:

- To adhere to the National Quality Framework, and the Children (Education and Care Services) National Regulations 2011 and National Law 2012 and any amendments
- To practice the EMS Charter of Respect and Code of Ethics and Conduct
- To nurture and develop the whole child, including their intellectual, social, emotional, physical and social needs, to prepare them not just for school, but for life
- To provide all that we can to support the development of skills, knowledge and understanding
- To recognise that play is the work of the child

Play-based and creative learning:

Seven Characteristics <i>(Dr Lennie Barblett)</i>	Montessori
Voluntary	Children choose to do something but other children can be invited to join in – <i>Freedom to explore</i>
Pleasurable	A deep sense of enjoyment, which will vary from child to child – <i>Passionate interest is apparent. Calm, concentration, invigorated.</i>
Symbolic	Usually includes some type of creative thinking where objects assume new meanings and purposes for the children.
Meaningful	To the children, but the meaning may not always be clear to an observer – <i>Purposeful, linked to acquisition of one's own culture.</i>
Active	It requires active mental, verbal or physical engagement with people, objects or ideas – <i>Involves movement, coordination.</i>
Process Orientated	It's enjoyed for the activity itself, not concerned with an end product – <i>Absorbent mind attracts children to stimuli, pride in 'doing'.</i>
Intrinsically motivated	It is its own reward - <i>Joy from self-construction.</i>

Our strengths lie in:

- Our Montessori educational program and practice
- Ensuring that children are safe and supported and that we have their wellbeing paramount
- Quality Montessori teachers and qualified support staff
- Nurturing and positive relationships with children
- Active partnerships with families and communities'
- Quality Educational Leadership and Service Management

Our goals for the next five years are to:

- Stay focused on pursuing whole school objectives by fostering teamwork and willingness to self-reflect
- Use our QIP to improve our ability to replicate ideas, solutions and processes that have applicability to processes.
- Embedding sustainability in our program, moving towards paperless accountability and record keeping.
- To be more culturally inclusive and diverse.

Date	Revision	Author and Approval
March 2012	Modified for PS	Elizabeth Goor – Head of School
July 2014	Reviewed	National Quality Framework Team
April 2019	Reviewed	Nominated Supervisor and Educational Leader