



# Hoppers Crossing Montessori Centre







## Message from the Director

***"There is nothing more special than seeing your kids grow up to be the best person they can be."***

The quote has a profound truth for which every parent can vouch for. We, at Hoppers Crossing Montessori Centre (HCMC) understand how difficult it may be for a parent to trust someone else to care of most important individual in their life. We also understand how valuable it is to provide an environment for your child that has the perfect balance of care and learning, nature and nurture, guided yet a free path to walk and grow.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. I would like to express my gratitude to you, for trusting HCMC to be the first destination for your little ones for their care and learning. I would also like to take this opportunity to present to you, what HCMC is all about and introduce you to the core values and ethos of HCMC.

My 18 years of experience in Information Technology gave me significant expertise in managing teams and systems, however it was my education at AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) that has helped me understand about the hearts and minds of children. My qualifications also include the Bachelors' in Engineering, Post-Graduation in Management, Certification of Global Business Leadership from U21 Global and Harvard Business School Publishing and the Managerial Excellence program from Duke University.

In a very short period of time, we have been acknowledged for our commitment, values and positive attitude. It is not about the things we do but about how we do it, that make us special and distinct from others. We are a multi-cultural family that care for our children, parents and community and believe in learning at every step of our lives- be it as a child or as an educator.

I welcome you all on board to be a part of our extended family.

**Mr. Aseem Gupta**  
Centre Director

# About Us

There is an adage, "It takes a village to raise a child".

We understand that it can be challenging to play multiple roles simultaneously, so we would like to be a part of the village that helps to raise your child.

Hoppers Crossing Montessori Centre (HCMC) is a purpose built, state of the art learning centre and a pre-school, a Kinder program that caters to children from six weeks to six years of age. HCMC has gradually expanded its horizons over the last few years by understanding, experiencing, and loving children.

We are committed to providing a learning environment of the highest quality using Montessori philosophy and principles as the foundation of our practice. Our curriculum is key to the child's development and encompasses worldwide Montessori practices and research.

We recognise your child's potential for learning, and our Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) trained Director and Montessori-trained educators plan and implement a program that focuses on achieving outcomes to develop your child.

Our Montessori classrooms are filled with real-life materials that are always accessible to children. Our carefully prepared and presented environment acts as a stimulus to engage children, leading to self-discovery of the many and varied materials and activities.







## Our Philosophy

At Hoppers Crossing Montessori Centre, we aim to help all children become truly capable and valuable individuals by focussing on their moral, behavioural, emotional, and intellectual development.

When it comes to your child's development, everything goes back to those very first steps. At Montessori, we harness each child's natural interest in a subject by going back to the beginning and allowing them to reach their full potential through natural inquisition.

### Long day-care plus Kindergarten learning

We appreciate that parents have busy work lives, and therefore our Centre operates 11 hours 30 mins a day, 52 weeks a year, Monday to Friday, utilising every opportunity to provide a stimulating and nurturing environment for developing children's skills and knowledge.

Within this environment, we have recognised early learning programs, including accredited kindergarten and preschool programs.

We cater to children from six weeks right up to six years of age, when the child is ready to start school.





## Our Vision

To provide a high-quality learning environment and work closely with parents and the community to provide excellence to stimulate and nurture the child's development.





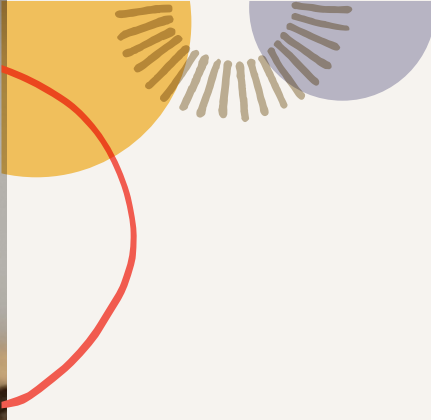


## Our Mission

Our mission is to create a place that fosters love for learning, problem solving experiences and inquisitiveness. This collaboration between parents, children and school will build a concrete foundation for your child's future.



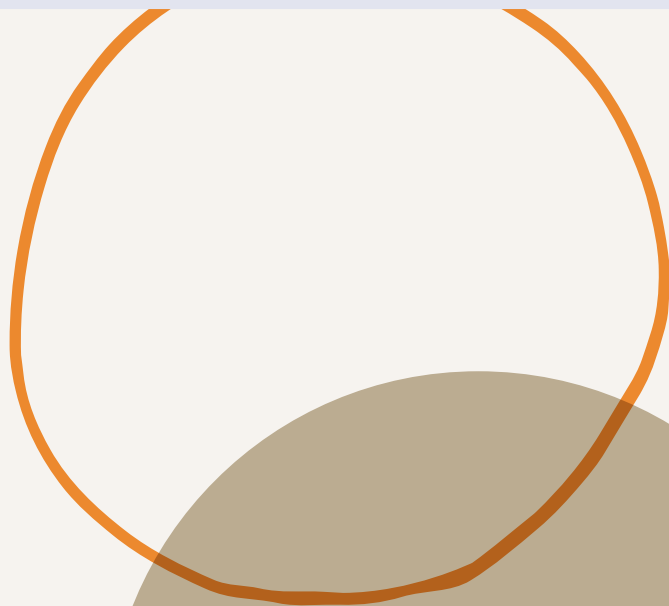




## Our Mode of Teaching



Our program is a worldwide accepted and appreciated program based on the philosophy of Maria Montessori. The Montessori philosophy's most significant difference is its emphasis on being child centred. While in traditional education, every child in the class must follow one path set out by the teacher, Montessori education follows the individual child's interests using observation.

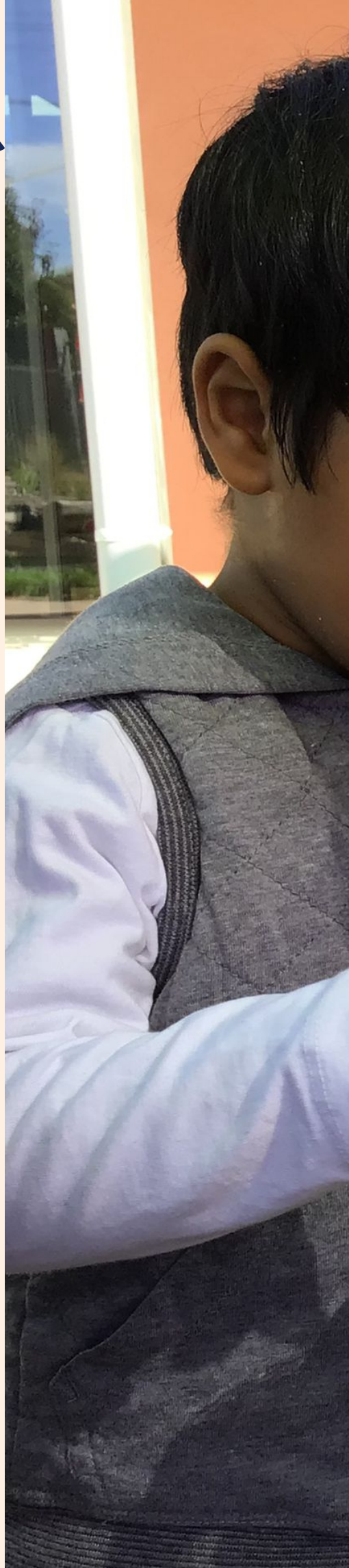






## What is Montessori-based learning?

The Montessori approach to education inspires children towards a lifelong love of learning by following their natural developmental trajectory. Children become confident, responsible, independent learners who trust in their own abilities. The inclusivity and positive social development facilitated by the Montessori programme forms the basis for a persistent attachment to learning and knowledge. It is not just about teaching; it is also an understanding of how best to foster natural development.















## The Montessori approach provides:

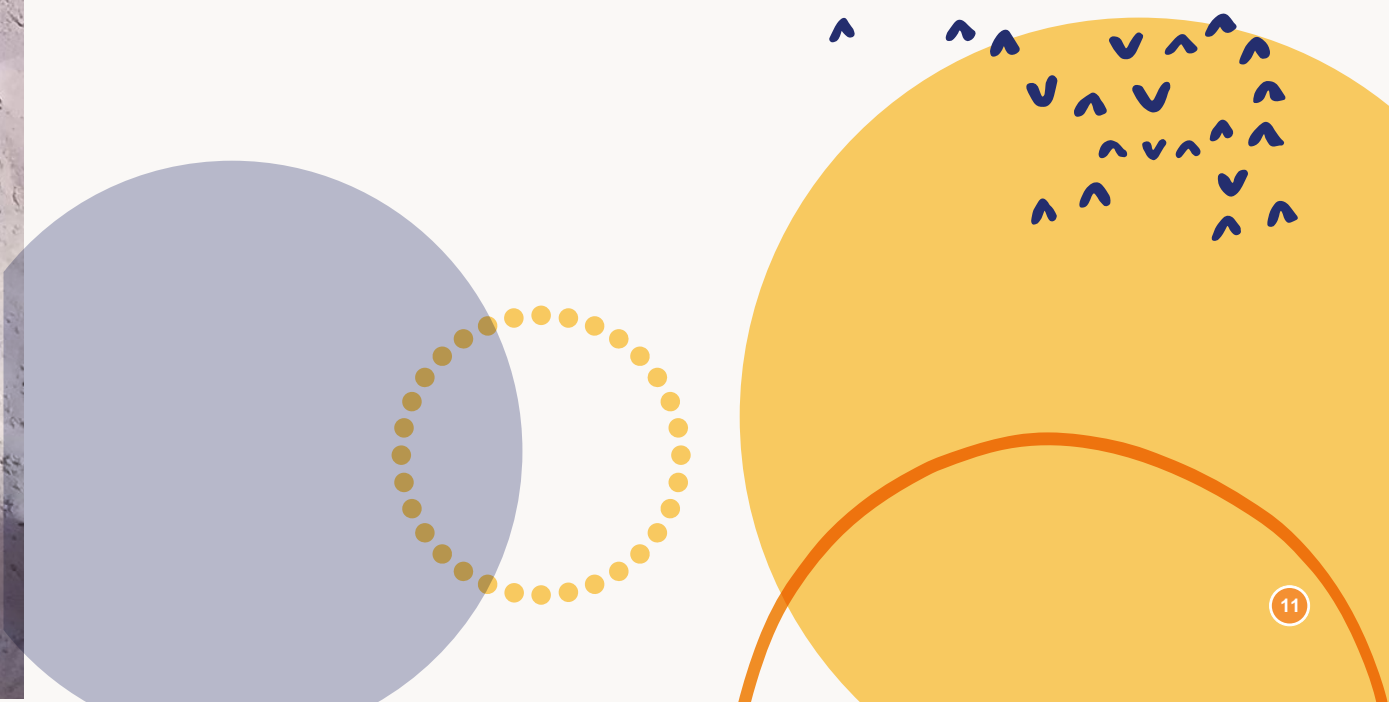
- An environment that serves the needs of each child's stage of development.
- A teacher who understands child development and acts as a guide to help children find their own natural path.
- Freedom for children to engage in their development according to their own developmental timeline.

## Curriculum

Your child's first six years lays the foundation for the rest of their life and is a period of enormous creation. At this stage, the child strives for functional independence, and as Dr Maria Montessori said, it is a period where a child says, "Help me to do it by myself." At this age, the child makes an initial adaptation in the world.

Montessori learning programs are designed to fit the specific needs of each child's stage of development. To us, learning is all about fostering your child's independence and understanding what they need at each particular moment.

After all, each child is special; each child is unique. And that's why our approach to learning is too.





## Children's House

(Age 3-6 years)

Having created the foundations of their personality, three-year-old children arrive in the prepared environment ready to develop and perfect their abilities. They learn best through real-life activities that support independence and self-efficacy, manipulating objects to provide concrete sensorial experience, and open-ended exploration leading to the refinement of their movements, sensory perceptions, language, and the development of their intellect. All members of this expanded community of 3 to 6-year-olds thrive through opportunities to follow their interests, freely choose their activities, develop their capacity for concentration, and engage their emerging powers of reason, imagination, and sociability at their own pace.

Montessori environments cater to multi-age groupings of children. These groupings operate like family environments, providing key learning and development opportunities in two ways. First, multi-age groupings encourage children to aspire to the achievements of older peers. Second, multi-age groupings enable older children to learn to treat younger ones with care and respect, providing them with opportunities to reinforce their learning and understanding through 'peer teaching'.







**Each classroom comprises the following areas of learning:**

## Practical Life

Young children love to be a part of our activities in daily life, and the Montessori practical life material offers opportunities to do that. Children work with child-sized tools to participate in activities that have visible, easily imitated movements, and they lead to greater physical skill, perfection of movement, confidence, and concentration. Young children are attracted to practical life exercises because they want to function independently in the adult world. Their motto is "I can do it myself," and Montessori education encourages and fosters this independence. Some of the preliminary activities are Care of the Person, Care of the Environment, Grace and Courtesy, and Walking on the Line.

# Sensorial

Children live in a world of sensations, and it is through their senses that they build their understanding of the world and develop their intellect. The Montessori sensorial material enables children to clarify, classify, and comprehend the multitude of sensorial impressions they take in from the world, thus, organising a clear, accurate, logical foundation for learning. Children use sensorial material to understand dimension, colour, shape, smell, sounds, and tastes, which provide a basis for developing other skills, such as memory, reasoning, creative imagination, and self-expression.







## Language

The Montessori preschool emphasises spoken language as the foundation for all linguistic expression. Using a multi-sensory approach, children are introduced to the letters and sounds of language, making it possible to express themselves in writing. Later, the children begin composing words, sentences, and whole stories using the moveable alphabet.

At this age, children are fascinated with the relationships between letters, sounds, and words. Reading and writing skills are the basis for exploring other subjects and helping them communicate with others.

## Mathematics

All children are born with naturally mathematical minds. They have the capacity to reason, calculate, and estimate. The unique, hands-on Montessori materials for mathematics give young children the opportunity to explore mathematics from concrete to abstract, making mathematics accessible and understandable. The Montessori materials build on each other in increasing complexity so that a child using them experiences the thrill of discovery for self as part of natural progression to understanding.













## Biology

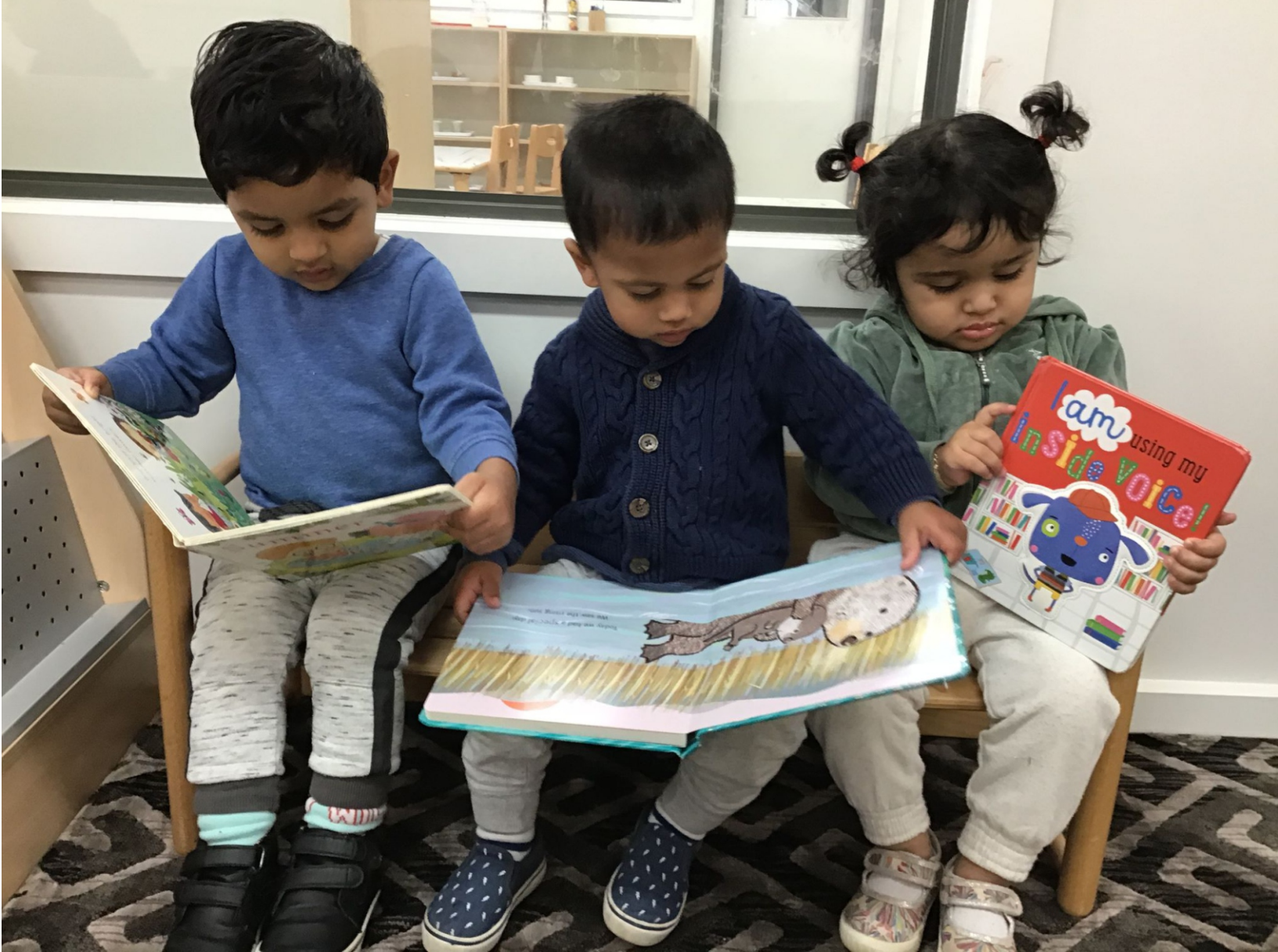
An interest in nature has been innate in every human being since the beginning of time. Language can be used as a pathway to the science of biology. Children have a natural interest in living things, and biology is the study of plants and animals. In the first six years of life, children absorb a limitless wealth of impressions, taking in all the elements of the world around them, including animals, plants, trees, and flowers – an infinite variety of growing things.

There are two major areas of biology. The first is zoology, which is the scientific study of animals, their structure, classification, and distribution. The second is botany, which is the study of the classification of plants, their physiology, structure and ecology. In the early age 3 to 6 year class, children are introduced to biology as an awareness of the living in our world.

## Geography

Geography is introduced at a very early age in the Montessori environment. Materials provide children with the opportunity to explore the many levels of order established through the ages as we perceived and classified our earth, land and water, continent, flags, and various cultures.





## Our Team

We are blessed to have a dedicated and balanced team of Montessori-trained and VIT Kinder teachers who have extensive industry experience with strong credentials. An eclectic blend of nationalities, skills, abilities and disciplines offers diversity and acceptance for all, which is truly a blessing for our children and community in general. All our educators are qualified and fulfil the compliances of Early Childhood Care and Education. In our multicultural Montessori environment, we all work hand in hand to achieve our vision for HCMC.



## How to Inculcate Montessori at Home

Montessori is not only a methodology but a way of life. It is about encouraging a child's curiosity, learning to see and accept a child as they are, without judgement, and remaining connected with the child, even when we need to stop them from doing something they really want to do.

It is not difficult to apply Montessori practices at home, but it maybe quite different from how we were parented and the way others around us parent.

In a Montessori approach, we see the child as an individual on his own journey, and we as parents support them as their guide. They aren't something to be moulded into what we see as their potential or to make up for our own experiences or unfulfilled desires as a child.



### Some at home Practical Life Activities (By age)

Area	12-18 months	18 months – 3 years	3-6 years
Kitchen	Pour water/ milk	Prepare a snack/ sandwich	Unload dishwasher
	Wipe up spills with hand mitt	Peel /slice fruits	Measure and mix ingredients for baking
	Take plate or small utensils to kitchen	Wash fruits and vegetables	Scrub and peel vegetables
	Drink from a glass	Set and clear the table	Assist with cooking/ baking
			Sweep the floor
Bathroom	Brush hair	Brush teeth	Use toilet and wipe with assistance after using toilet
	Brush teeth with help	Wash body	Place wet clothing in laundry area
	Wash hands	Clean face	Wash body and hair
	Fetch and hang up towel	Blow nose	

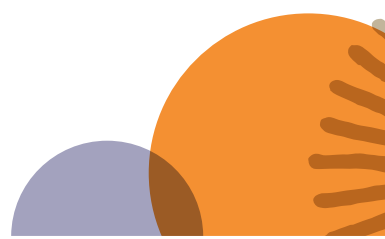






It is very important that the child feels heard, seen and understood. At HCMC, we believe in seven principles for igniting these curious minds:

1. Follow the child – let them lead
2. Encourage hands-on learning – let them explore
3. Include the child in daily life – let them be involved in daily chores
4. Go slow – let them set their own pace
5. Help me to help myself – let them be independent and responsible
6. Encourage creativity – let them wonder
7. Observe – let them show you





Bedroom	Fetch diaper/ underwear	Help to make bed	Make bed
	Put dirty clothes for laundry	Choose clothes	Pack clothes into drawers/closet
	Choose between two options of clothing	Dress themselves	
	Get dressed with help		
	Take off socks		
Other	Help put toys away	Arrange flowers in small vase	Feed pets
	Fetch personal belongings	Pack and carry backpack	Help with recycling
	Help parent in simple chores	Put on coat/ shoes	Fold laundry
	Turn light switch on/off	Organise toy shelf	Fold socks
		Load/unload washing machine and dryer	Vacuum
		Sort socks and clothing by colour	
		Fetch products in super market	
		Help unpack groceries	



## Our Initiatives

The environment is a critical element of a childcare centre, impacting all seven areas of National Quality Standards and contributes to each of the five learning outcomes of Early Year Learning Framework. At HCMC, we inculcate sustainable practices through the use of indoor and outdoor area with built and natural settings.

### **Reuse :**

HCMC is doing rain water harvesting and uses its recycled water in toilets

### **Reduce :**

We grow and eat from our own garden. Children realise the value of food and reduce wastage by putting all the scraps in the compost bin. Then this compost is used in our own garden where we grow vegetables and herbs to be used in our kitchen

### **Recycle :**

To reduce the waste, and to reuse are the two most important components of recycling. HCMC has made a community garden purely out of recycled things donated by the parents.





## Sustainability:

Sometimes less is more. We really highlight the importance of sustainability in our curriculum and teach children and educators to recycle and reuse. HCMC is the only and proud recipient of **GREEN SCHOOL AWARD** from Govt. of Victoria, Australia. Keeping children close to nature, making them socially responsible, and respect nature is one of goals of the service. Being aware of the life surrounding us infuses a sense of respect and care for all. Children do not always need newer and bigger things to enjoy life, they just need attention and company to enjoy moments of life.





# Award and Certificates

Achievement  
Program



## Certificate of achievement

The Victorian  
Government recognises  
**Hoppers Crossing  
Montessori Centre**

as a health promoting early  
childhood service.

Congratulations on achieving  
success in all **six health** areas  
of the Achievement Program.

**DATE ISSUED:** 2 June 2020

The Achievement Program is supported  
by the Victorian Government and  
delivered by Cancer Council Victoria.





MONTESSORI  
SCHOOLS & CENTRES AUSTRALIA

This is to certify that

# HOPPERS CROSSING MONTESSORI CENTRE

is approved as a member of  
Montessori Schools and Centres Australia (MSCA)

Valid for 12 months from January 16th, 2021

CATHY FRANCE

MSCA Board Chair

MSCA's purpose is to assist, strengthen, represent and promote the collective interests of its members.  
We support and encourage quality Montessori pedagogy in Australia.

## 2020 Victorian Schools Garden Awards



### Most Engaging Student Garden for Play Award

winner

### Hoppers Crossing Montessori Centre

The Victorian Schools Garden Program is proudly supported by









## Safety: Our Priority

We understand that you are handing over the most precious part of your life to us and we are ready to take care of him/her to them like our own. All the areas of HCMC have been created and developed keeping in mind the child's safety. We comply with the QUALITY AREA 2 of NQF concerning safety of children and excel on other parameters of safety and hygiene.

Our centre has its safety policy in place that can be accessed by the parents in the centre. In case of an injury/ incident, a detailed report is given to the parent after administering first aid to the child. All the educators are certified for first aid, anaphylaxis, CPR and have a working with children's check.

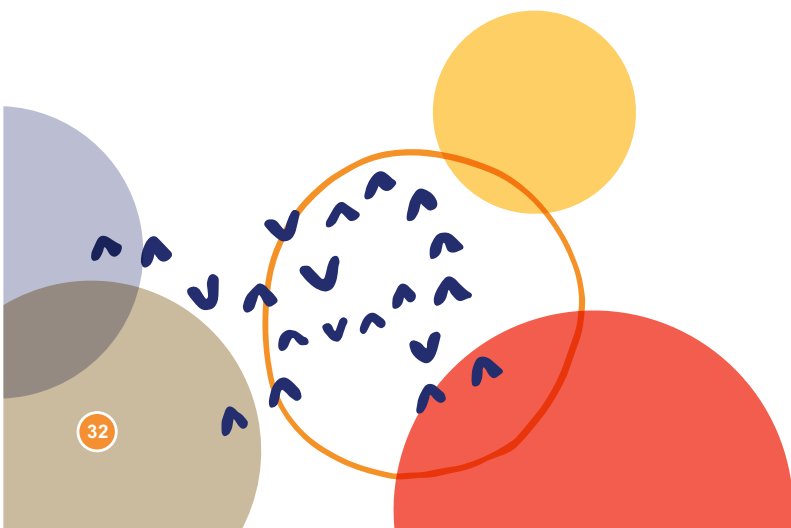






## Working Hand in Hand with Parents

Families are child's first educators, and they are the best partners and collaborators for the teachers to ensure that child gets the best environment for learning and reaches his potential. Parents' participation in child's learning is very important as the child can be benefitted the most with active communication, collaboration and consultation between the educator and the family. Child rearing is a difficult job and by holding parents' hands in this journey is the way to ensure to have a happy community and society in general.







## Incursions and Excursions

HCMC organises orientation programs for parents for making them a part of the flow of the day for their child in school. Periodic workshops for the parents are conducted regarding the shaping of children's behaviour or parenting in general. These workshops are very important as parents understand they are not the only one facing problems with their children and it also serves as a common platform for all to come up with solutions. Besides this, HCMC has a parent association where parents can represent their class and can be active participants in school activities. They can volunteer for outings, functions and contribute to the service by participating in various events. Parent's knowledge and skills in their respective professions is also appreciated and we look forward to their participation in events like community week and diversity week.

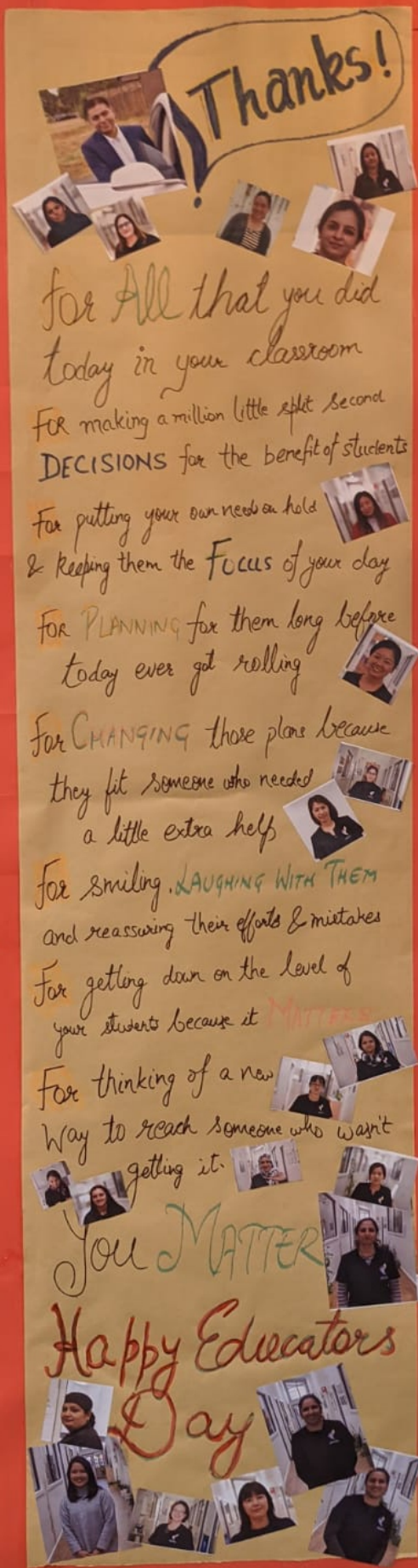


## Events and Celebrations

HCMC celebrates many events, festivals, days of significance as a part of its curriculum. These days are planned well in advance and are informed to parents via Storypark app. The aim is for each child to be aware and develop a sense of belonging. Some of the important events are Annual day, Graduation Ceremony, festivals like Chinese New Year, Christmas. All days of significance like Reconciliation week, NAIDOC Week and days celebrating environment are a part of the calendar.



















## Some Guidelines for Parents

Children are the most important part of our lives, and their care is of utmost importance. To give them a safe and healthy environment, we request you to follow these guidelines:

1. Please ensure that children are wearing comfortable clothing. Over-dressed or under-dressed children are not comfortable and often miss on aspects of fun and learning. The temperature of the rooms is maintained at around 24-25 daily Celsius.
2. Children should always wear closed shoes, preferably with Velcro. (We encourage and teach them to be independent, and they are yet not ready to handle laces).
3. All children's belongings, such as bag, bottles, nappies, clothes, medication (if applicable) or any other personal item should be labelled to avoid any confusion. It is imperative to maintain hygiene standards, and we do not want items misplaced or mixed up.
4. If a child is sick, please inform us and keep the child at home to avoid infecting other children. If the child gets sick here in centre, we will give the first aid, inform you and ask you to pick the child. Till the child is in the centre, he will be taken care of, and a record will be maintained.
5. If we do not receive written instructions, particularly concerning a child's health and safety, we will follow the department's guidelines. Every parent should give clear instructions in writing for us if required.





6. All information such as the month's activities, your child's routine, and special events is provided to parents through story park, playground app, newsletter, and circulars. Please read these communications consistently to keep track of your child's progress and other relevant information.
7. All matters regarding fees, holidays, withdrawal rules, and adding days can be clarified at the reception.
8. Your calls and feedback are important to us, but every minute an educator spends on the phone means we are compromising the supervision of the children. Please make an appointment with the teacher if you have an important matter to discuss. For day-to-day communication, please leave a message at reception or call within the designated hours only.
9. Please notify us if there are any changes concerning your child's health, your personal details, payment plans, etc. We do not want any delays in providing you with the best possible service. If you are experiencing any delays from our side, please bear with us as we work towards offering the best possible solution.
10. Our focus is always on the child, and this is reflected in our decisions. Sometimes views may differ, but the goal is always the same.
11. Our educators care for and become emotionally involved with the children, so please trust them and be polite to them in your conversations. They are here to help and are an important part of our family.















## Hoppers Crossing Montessori Centre



Contact Details

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