



Rooted in Hogsback.

Parent Information Evening

Who We Are



Steering Committee

Esté Pieterse

Montessori Directress

Bathandwa Siyo

Assistant Teacher

Billy Breytenbach

Founder Parent & Treasurer

Monika Hof

Fundraising Coordinator

Gigi Breytenbach

Founder Parent & Doer-of-all-things-good

Fiona Wallace

Chief Whip



mud and moss montessori
Mud and Moss Montessori

Who We Are

OUR VISION

A community where every child is trusted to learn at their own pace, in harmony with the natural world.

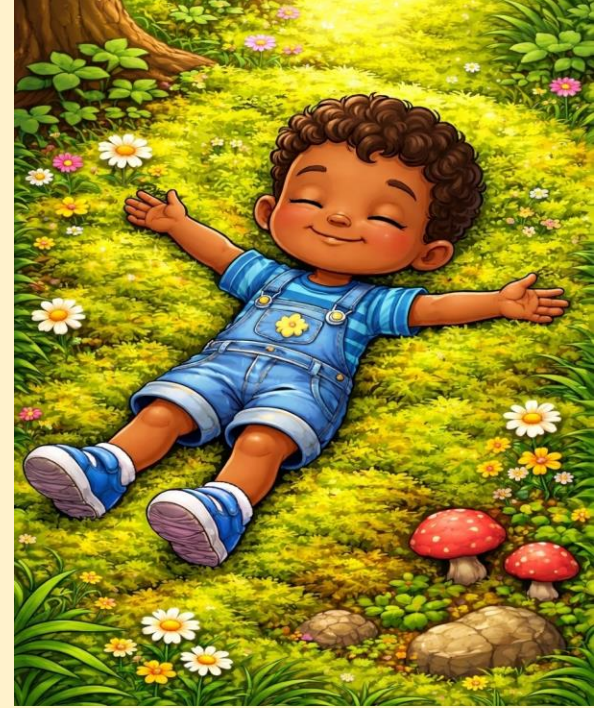
OUR CORE VALUES

*Child-Centered Learning
Inclusivity
Harmony with Nature
Community & Partnership*

OUR MISSION

To create a calm, beautiful, prepared environment where children develop independence, curiosity, deep concentration and a lifelong love of learning — one purposeful activity at a time.





Mud Hands-on, Real, Sensorial
Moss Steady Self-paced Growth



The Silence Game

One of the first things children experience in a Montessori environment.

The children don't just tolerate it. They ask for it.

*Not rules imposed from the outside.
Self-mastery.
Grown from within.*

What is Montessori?

Not a curriculum. A complete reimagining of what childhood is for.



Natural Learners

Children are natural scientists. Driven, from birth, to make sense of the world around them.



The Adult's Role

Observe and facilitate purposeful work in a prepared environment. To foster independence and self-directed learning.



The Prepared Environment

Every shelf, every material, every corner has been thought about. Nothing is there by accident. Everything is there for the child — at their height, within their reach.



Child at the Centre

The child is at the centre. Not the teacher. Not the timetable.

Practical Life

Not a warm-up act. The act itself.



POURING
*Precision Patience
Control*



FOLDING
*Order Sequence
Care*



SWEEPING
*Responsibility
Coordination*



PLANT CARE
*Nurturing
Observation*



FOOD PREP
*Independence
Real skills*



THREADING
*Fine motor
Concentration*

A child who masters pouring water learns far more than how to pour — they learn patience, precision, and the joy of doing something for themselves.

The Sensorial Environment

Training the senses. Building the mind.



Colour & Visual

Grading, matching, discriminating shades



Sound

Listening, pitch discrimination, auditory focus



Touch & Texture

Smooth and rough, weight, temperature



Shape & Form

Geometric solids, fitting cylinders, dimensions



Size & Dimension

Pink Tower, brown stair, ordering by size



Smell & Taste

Identifying scents, exploring natural flavours

A child who has spent months refining their senses has a mind exquisitely prepared to receive language, mathematics, and everything that follows.

Language

The word is the first key to the world.



Spoken Language

Rich vocabulary, real words, never simplified



Sandpaper Letters

A tactile, multi-sensory approach to learning the alphabet and phonetics. (visual, auditory, and muscle memory)



Moveable Alphabet

Building words before the hand can write them



Phonics & Sounds

Connecting sounds to symbols, naturally and at pace



Early Writing

Metal insets build lightness of touch and pencil control.



Reading Readiness

No fixed date — only readiness, and we follow it

Language begins with conversation. Children's capacity for language at this age is extraordinary — & we honour it with real words, real stories & real wonder.

Mathematics

Concrete first. Always. Then abstract.



Number Rods

Introducing quantity in a concrete manner.



Sandpaper Numbers

Tracing digits by hand, linking symbol to quantity



Golden Beads

Introduces the decimal system in a concrete way.



Spindle Boxes

Zero represents nothing. Children discover this themselves.



Stamp Game

Addition and subtraction with physical materials



Bead Chains

Skip counting, multiplication — made tangible

A child does not encounter 1000 as a symbol. They hold it. They feel the difference between ten and a thousand — and when abstraction comes, it arrives on solid ground.

Cultural Work

Real answers. Real materials. Real wonder.



Geography

Puzzle maps, land & water forms, where we live in the world



Botany

Parts of a plant, leaf shapes, caring for living things



Zoology

Animal kingdoms, life cycles, the web of living things



Science

Magnets, sink & float, seasons, the natural world



Art & Music

Creating freely, listening deeply, expressing beauty



History

Birthdays, timelines, our place in the story of life

Children at this age have an ‘absorbent mind’. They want to know everything. We give them real answers — & a love of learning for a lifetime.

Vertical Age Grouping



Children Learn from Each Other

A younger child watches an older child work, and is drawn forward — not by instruction, but by inspiration. The older child deepens their own understanding by explaining.

No two children follow the same path.

Every child is exactly where they need to be.

A Community of Learners

Children learn to lead, to help, to be patient, to be generous. The results — in confidence, in character, in love of learning — speak for themselves.



Why Hogsback?

*This place is not incidental to what we are building.
It is essential to it.*

Forest & Seasons

*Children learn
surrounded by
living things,
changing skies, and
the deep rhythms
of the natural
world.*



Why Hogsback?

This place is not incidental to what we are building. It is essential to it.



Slowness as a Value

Hogsback insists on slowness. On attention. On wonder. Here a child can watch a spider build its web, turn over a stone, feel wet soil and dry.

Why Hogsback?

This place is not incidental to what we are building. It is essential to it.



The Outdoors as Classroom

The outdoors is not a break from the classroom. In many ways, it is the classroom.

Why Hogsback?

This place is not incidental to what we are building. It is essential to it.

Exactly the Right Home

Hogsback values align perfectly with Montessori values — slow growth, deep roots, and a childhood richly connected to the real world.



What We Are Building

We start right. We start strong.

PHASE 1 — NOW

◆ NOW

Practical Life

Ages 2.5–6 | The foundation of all Montessori learning — pouring, folding, sweeping, caring, concentrating.

PHASE 2 — COMING SOON

Sensorial & Language

Montessori sensorial materials and early literacy

PHASE 3 — FUTURE

Full Casa dei Bambini

Mathematics, Cultural studies & complete 3–6 programme

"The deeper the roots, the taller it can grow."



Mud and Moss Montessori

The Investment in Quality

Why Montessori costs what it does — and why it's worth it.

Authentic Materials

A single Sensorial set can cost hundreds to thousands of rands.

Handcrafted from solid wood and natural materials — not plastic. Each item is precisely engineered, pedagogically purposeful, and built to last decades.

Prepared Environment

Design and fit-out must meet Montessori standards.

Child-sized furniture, low open shelving, natural light, and calm order. Every detail is intentional — because the environment is the third teacher.

Trained Educators

Specialists, not generalists.

Qualified teachers trained in child development, observation, and material presentation.

You are not paying for childcare. You are investing in education which allows your child to experience themselves as capable, independent, and curious.

Our Commitment to You



Transparency

Open, honest communication. We share the joyful moments AND the ones that need support. No surprises.



Patience Over Pressure

We will never rush your child. Montessori is a slow philosophy — slow is how things grow strong.



True Partnership

You are not clients. You are co-educators in your child's life. Home and school must be united.



"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

Maria Montessori

Let's Talk — We'd love to hear from you



mudandmossmontessori@gmail.com



082 451 7475 / 082 524 8495