

Donations Appeal

Help us to help children
through Montessori Education

Make a donation today

I would like my donation to go to the
Gamarada Redfern Montessori Centre.

I would like my donation to go to the general
Montessori Indigenous Children's Trust.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation:

Please accept my donation of :

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$ _____

Regular Donations:

I would like to make a regular donation:

Please debit my credit card for \$ _____

Monthly or Quarterly until further notice.

Please enter your credit card details below.

Tax receipts will be sent annually.

You can discontinue your donations at anytime.

I will make my donation by:

Cheque/Money Order enclosed
made payable to Montessori Children's Foundation

Visa Card Master Card Bankcard

Card Number:

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Cardholder's Name: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Send donations to:

Montessori Children's Foundation
44d Smith Street Balmain NSW 2041

Donations are tax deductible

Donations Appeal

Help us to help children
through Montessori Education



Please send your donation today

**Donations are tax deductible
and go to support
Montessori Indigenous Projects**

Gamarada Redfern Montessori Centre

The Gamarada Playgroup commenced in 1998 on Eveleigh Street, Redfern, at the Eloura Community Centre which incorporated the Anthony Mundine Gym. A small space at the gym was donated by the Aboriginal Housing Company. Enrolment included children from the Block area of Redfern, and the Centre was open five days a week.

In 2000, the Redfern Public School generously offered the Centre a small room in their complex. Operating in this new public school venue meant Gamarada was able to cater to a community of more diverse cultures and support more families.

When Redfern Public School closed down in 2002, the Centre lobbied for a larger room and was given one which became available in a vacated classroom. The Centre was then able to serve children from birth to six years old.

In August 2003, the classroom next door became available and was added to the Centre's facilities making it possible to provide separate environments for the birth to three-year olds and the three to six children. The Playgroup offers early preparation for children up to three years of age who are accompanied by a parent.

The Centre also worked with Alexandria Park Public School to offer a programme for 4 to 6 year olds within the public school system. This programme met with success but was discontinued when the instigating Principal left the school.

In 2006 the programme had to leave Redfern Public School. The Education Department promised other premises and after some time the programme was given a room at the Bourke Street Public School.

The programme is one of the success stories of Redfern and has received the support of Tanya Plibersek, Federal Member for Sydney and the Montessori Children's Foundation.



Programme Founder, Barbara Stephen

Special mention must be made of the programme founder, Barbara Stephen. Barbara is a senior citizen and devotes her life to the Redfern Indigenous community. For the past nine years she has lived on the "Block" in Redfern amongst the community providing an educational haven for young children and their parents. She donates her services choosing to subsist on the old-aged pension so she can be free to spend all her time working in Redfern. Barbara Stephen, Director of the Gamarada Redfern Montessori Learning Centre devotes her life to promoting the wellbeing of children across all cultures and is dedicated to quality education to enhance life opportunities.



Barbara has the trust and respect of the Aboriginal community. Redfern suffers from a continuing host of well-intentioned groups coming in and out of the community offering the next thing that will help the people of Redfern. Barbara, however, is part of the community and has continued despite adversity to offer ongoing support to the children and families of the Redfern Waterloo area.

In 2003, Barbara was awarded "Citizen of the Year" by South Sydney Council for her tireless contribution not only to local early childhood education but also to the community at large.

Montessori Education

Montessori education, based upon the scientific discoveries and observations made by Dr Maria Montessori, is an approach to education designed to support the development of every child's full potential. It is often referred to as "Education as an Aid to Life". The Montessori approach has been used to educate children for nearly a hundred years in virtually every country throughout the world. Montessori educational programs are offered for children from birth to three, three to six, six to twelve and twelve to eighteen years of age. Montessori professionals also work to support the needs of children outside the classroom setting, with a particular emphasis on parent education and community outreach programs.