



# National Newsletter

## Message from the President

Dear Montessori Parents,

It is not always easy making the choice to send your child to a Montessori school. Parents often encounter resistance from family members, criticism from friends and relatives and even have small concerns that lie within themselves about their decision to commit to this method of education for their child.

Believe it or not, some Montessori directresses/directors question their decision to continue teaching, to working in the prepared environment and often ask themselves where their resilience comes from.

How do we find the inner drive to keep doing our jobs, make the commitment (as parents or teachers) year after year? According to author Catherine McTamane, our resilience and commitment comes from our willingness to change, to grow, and to bend. She likens our ability to be resilient and flexible to a tree with deep roots.

“Change will happen. Teachers will change. Parents will change. Schools change systems and materials. Policies change.” To manage the change, we need to find, even in changing winds, our deep roots. As we all know, the only thing in life that is certain is change.

During times of change and uncertainty, whether it is in your child’s development process, or in everyday situations, there are some things that we cannot compromise on: our kindness and our compassion. These are the qualities that guide us, even when we are compromising, raising concerns, disagreeing and challenging ourselves, and those around us.

Maria Montessori developed a method of education that is based on following the child. This by implication means that we will be required to change, compromise, challenge and be challenged. It is an active choice made by parents and teachers. Having your child in a Montessori school means a commitment from everyone involved in the life of the child so that his or her best interests are put first, with kindness and compassion.

If you are able to bring these two qualities into the interactions you have with your child and all involved at school, you should feel at peace with your choice and better able to be an active participant in your child’s educational journey.

Warm regards  
**Sam Streak**  
**SAMA President**

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Centenary of the Montessori Movement

[www.montessoricentenary.org](http://www.montessoricentenary.org)

**“Champion the Cause of All Children”**

## Book Corner

**Elizabeth Pantley**, author of books and articles filled with advice and solutions on parenting with young ones. She has written the ‘No-cry Series’.

On this interactive website you can review her books, download articles and look at video clips in which she gives examples of her solutions to parenting problems.

To read more go onto her website at [www.pantley.com/elizabeth](http://www.pantley.com/elizabeth)

**Education starts at birth, and therefore concerns parents as well as other adults who take care of a child in the different milieu in which it grows. It should be directed towards the future and we should take into account the whole continuum of growth in establishing its objective.**

Maria Montessori. Education for Human Development

## Vertical Grouping in a Montessori Classroom.

Montessori classrooms are mixed in age with the grouping 3 to 6, 6 to 9 and 9 to 12 years.

The wide range of materials available to the children allows individualized work, progress and independence. Children are given the opportunity to observe and learn from one another, allowing the older child consolidation of concepts by sharing with younger children.

## SAMA OFFICE:

Cell no. **072 6095979**

Office/Fax no: **(041) 5812874**

Address: P.O. Box 5505 Walmer, Port Elizabeth 6065, e-mail: [admin@samontessori.org.za](mailto:admin@samontessori.org.za)

Website: [www.samontessori.org.za](http://www.samontessori.org.za)

contributions and queries to [chandler2@telkomsa.net](mailto:chandler2@telkomsa.net)