



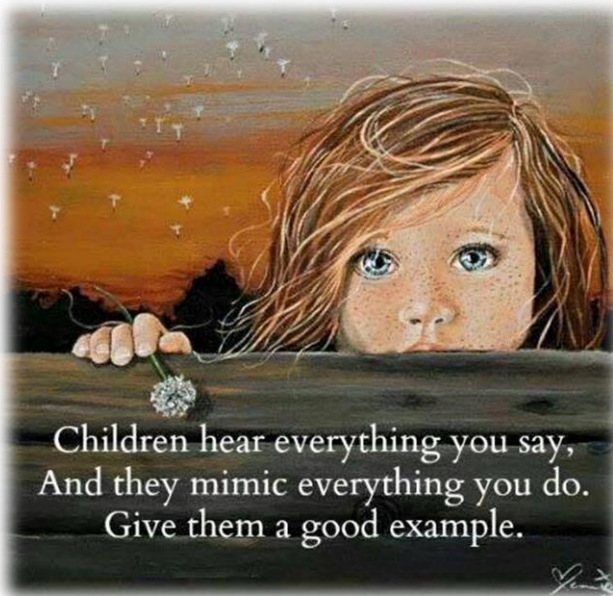
Parent Newsletter

October 2015

Letter from the President

Graciousness and appreciation. In this last week past, a cherished parent who catalogues and organises our new library books, walked into the primary classroom. The directress there had just shown the children a new spelling dictionary donated at the school's 'language arts evening'. She was delighted when overhearing the children's discussion and enthusiasm over the benefits of the dictionary. One boy specifically asked who had donated the book, demonstrating true appreciation for the donor.

As in this example, do children naturally demonstrate graciousness, which is seen a how they are with themselves and others and do children naturally demonstrate appreciation? You may say, yes very young children do show honest appreciation for most things around them, but somehow it can become lost quickly, especially when showing appreciation or gratitude is tied to rewards.



The very foundation of a Montessori environment at no matter what age group; is "graces and courtesies." As directors in these environments it is without a doubt the very essence that is expected in ensuring support in the development of the young child to adulthood. Can we force children to be kind and respectful? No we can't. But what we can do in our every moment when with children and others is consistently demonstrate graciousness and appreciation. The old adage; "Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you." – Robert Fulgum.

This is exactly what children do, they re-enact your behaviour. You curse while driving, they will curse in the playground, you show patience and let someone into your lane, and they too will do that in the playground. You work alongside a child in helping clean up their mess, they too will on their own offer help to others when there is a mess. Out of respect for themselves comes respect towards others.

These graces and courtesies are there to build necessary social skills to carry throughout their lives and all relationships.

Yours in Montessori
Jacky Price

Education is a natural process carried out by the human individual, and it is acquired not by listening to words, but by experiences in the environment.
Maria Montessori

UPDATE TO PARENTS:

Independent schools (primary 6-12years) that offer alternate curricula, such as Montessori schools; Umalusi and the affected parties have a formal agreement on the approach that Umalusi would take in accrediting these schools.

We are awaiting the outcome of the proposed meeting between the Department of Basic Education (DBE), South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the Council for Quality Assurance in general and further education and training (UMALUSI) to discuss the accreditation of schools that offer alternate and foreign curricula.

At present and until such time as a solution has been found by Umalusi to find a solution for themselves to accredit our schools; the delivery of an authentic Montessori programme will continue, as per our rights as independent schools, unaffected by the restrictions of compliance to CAPS. Our responsibility though, as Montessori schools is to ensure we have sound understanding of educational requirements for our children.

We are pleased that for SAMA member preschools, SAMA has formed a partnership with the Independent Quality Assurance Association (IQAA) in bringing about an independent quality evaluation process developed specifically for Montessori schools! 'Montessori Pre-schools in a Mirror' (guideline instrument for internal evaluation of Montessori pre-schools).



The South African Montessori Association invites you to attend the 14th annual conference hosted in the heart of the Mother City, Cape Town, 2016.

DATE: SAMA Conference
30 April (09h30 - 17h30)
1 May (09h00 - 17h00)

Leadership & Management workshop with Jonathan Wolff
2 May (09h30 - 16h30)

VENUE: Gardens Commercial High School
Paddock Ave, CBD, Cape Town

COST: Early bird discount of **R1 000** 1 October to 28 February 2016 – book and save today!

SAMA MEMBERS

R2 700 (early bird: R1 700) for 2 day Conference (30 April AND 1 May)

R1 850 (early bird: R 850) for 1 day Leadership & Management workshop

NON MEMBERS

R4 500 (early bird: R3 500) for 2 day Conference (30 April AND 1 May)

R2 000 (early bird: R1 000) for 1 day Leadership & Management workshop

