The Montessori Method

The Montessori Method was established in 1907 by Maria Montessori in Rome, Italy.

Dr Maria Montessori was a medical doctor. Through her work with children with intellectual disabilities, she became convinced that the best way to educate children was to meet their developmental needs in a specially prepared learning environment. This learning environment should be totally accessible to the children and be linked to the outdoor environment where they can connect to nature. She also designed and manufactured a set of sequential learning materials that when presented in the correct way would encourage independence, self-discipline and self-motivated learning.

Today the Montessori Method has spread throughout the world and in Australia there are 186 Montessori Schools. They are supported by the Montessori Australia Foundation which maintains the integrity of the programmes and is a conduit for communication across schools in Australia and internationally.

In a Montessori school, the teaching and learning is designed to encourage the children to take responsibility for their own learning. They are taught to make good choices, complete their work in a prescribed time, develop their independence and work collaboratively. They are encouraged to believe in themselves with a realistic view of their abilities, gifts and areas that require extra work.

The ultimate goal is to create a lasting love of learning that will assist them to realise their natural and unique potential. When students leave a Montessori school, they take with them a global responsibility for their planet and become active contributors to society.