



MONTESSORI@Howick Primary

individuals - learning - growing - together

A FAMILY'S STORY

How our daughter came to be at Montessori @ Howick Primary

Our daughter had been attending a Montessori pre school since the age of two and a half. She loved it there and was thriving. As the time came closer to choosing a primary education for her, we started down the path to the local primary school, just as our parents had done with us. The local primary is a well respected school with fabulous facilities. We went to open days and then we took our daughter along for a class visit.

It was at this point that that I had one of two "aha" moments in choosing our child's next school. I sat in the classroom and said to myself "my daughter is not going to thrive here, she is not going to flourish, and she's likely to get bored". I felt quite overwhelmed by all the objects and bits and pieces around the classroom and on the walls, such a short time was spent on each topic, the teacher did a lot of talking and the children did not have time to focus on their learning. This is not a criticism of mainstream schools (and they are all in themselves very different), but from the view point of a parent of a Montessori pre schooler, I just knew that it would not suit my child.

But what really hit home was what my daughter said to me when I asked her was she thought about her visit. She said "mum the children kept interrupting each other so they could not do their learning".

We went back again for another visit without my daughter and we went to talk to the deputy principal but what I did first was to phone up Dee Gordon the Directress at Montessori @ Howick Primary. We chatted and she invited us to come and visit.

My husband and I arrived at school one morning and a very polite child opened the door, welcomed us and took us over to Dee. She gave us some observation guidelines to read and we sat and watched the children. It was quiet and peaceful and the classroom was orderly. The children were busy and focused and they were also having fun learning.

My second "aha" moment occurred. My daughter would be happy here – she would thrive, it felt right. So along she came for a visit and as they say, the rest is history.

Our daughter has been at Montessori @ Howick Primary for a year. She has learnt so much both socially and academically and she is having such a fun time learning. She adores her teachers and is desperately upset when she is sick and cannot go to school !!!

Of course we did not base our choice solely on the visits. We did a lot of reading to learn more for ourselves about Montessori education. We looked at the MANZ and other websites, we spoke to parents whose children were attending Montessori @ Howick Primary and we asked Dee a lot of questions!!! Furthermore as our daughter was doing so well at the preschool it seemed so obvious to continue with a successful methodology.

We are very happy that we made the right choice. Our daughter is happy. All the things that we wanted for our daughter at school are being fulfilled – she is happy, she is being stimulated and challenged, she enjoys learning, she is developing social skills and friendships, she is learning about respecting others and the environment and as we did all those years ago, she is learning the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic.