

MMS Going Out Program

"When the child goes out, it is the world itself that offers itself to him. Let us take the child out to show him real things instead of making objects which represent ideas and closing them in cupboards." (Montessori, From Childhood to Adolescence.)

Children in the second plane of development are in need of a dual environment: that which is found *within* the Montessori classroom and that which is found *outside* the Montessori classroom. While the classroom is captivating and intriguing, it is not enough. Children must witness and experience first-hand what is out in the community. Maria Montessori developed "going out" in an attempt to connect children with the outside world.

"Since life outdoors differs from life in a closed environment, a guide and an aim are necessary. In short, to go out, one must be ready for it." (Montessori, From Childhood to Adolescence.)

A true going out trip is one that is thought of, planned, organised, executed, and followed up by the child. It is an expression of independence and responsibility. At Melbourne Montessori School, this is a new Going Out Program and it will take time to get started. It cannot be offered without preparation, especially in regard to the children requiring presentations to develop the skills in planning and executing Going Out. In the beginning, Going Out may be initiated by adults, but as the culture of Going Out forms, the adult at first supports, and then the children independently plan and execute the Going Out.

The Going Out program is part of the prepared environment. The preparation for the Going Out will take time and thoughtful planning each year, and throughout the year. It must be accessible to all children, and prepared with their needs and characteristics in mind. Most of all, it should be a process that actually makes it possible for the children to go out, and isn't so complicated or inaccessible that they never try to plan an outing.

Considerations and Preparation

Stages of Going Out

Stage 1

Preparing the child

Grace and Courtesy Lessons and Practical Life Skills as needed

Examples:

- How to walk on a street
- How to walk in a shop
- How to ask for directions

Children leave the Classroom to visit other areas of the School

Children do small outings on foot in the neighbourhood immediately surrounding the School

Stage 2

Going Out with Adult Assistance

Grace and Courtesy Lessons and Practical Life Skills as needed

Examples

- How to determine costs
- How to read timetables
- How to write formal emails

Stage 3

Independent Going Out (Cycle 4)