

## Educator Profile:

Sunanda Reddy  
Stoke



Kia ora, I'm Sunanda and I live in Stoke with my partner Hamish and our fur-baby Oscar. A home-based Montessori environment has been the dream for eleven years now, and I am beyond excited about sharing Montessori Lite, our beautiful wee space for 2.5 to six year olds, with your whanau! Here's a quick and easy-to-digest introduction to Montessori if you are considering this style of education for your little people:

<https://www.childoftheredwoods.com/articles/montessori-101-the-basics/>

Starting as an assistant in a Montessori Infant Community (18 months - 3 years) environment in Japan, I was (and still am, all these years later) blown away by the beauty, calm and variety of considered mahi with endless time to explore it all...and that was only the toddlers! Until that experience I had never really considered how nuanced play can be, or that it could look and feel like this. After graduating from an AMI-accredited training centre in India in 2010, I spent the next 10 years teaching in and leading Montessori 3-6 environments in Sydney and Nelson. While babies and toddlers are good fun/not for the faint-hearted, I love the conversations of 3-6 year olds. The home-based context means that Lite is a unique adaptation of Montessori, and you are more than welcome to visit and chat with me (or with the rather lovely Kirstie Van Houtte of Village Kids, who is also Montessori-trained).

Hamish and I agree that Montessori is to me what Xbox is to him, but a few other things spark joy too - books have always been the most consistent and constant of friends, I am easily enticed to the beach, completely swayed by ice-cream and I will always, always dance to Faithless.

Nau mai, Haere mai. :)

*"We know from myths and fairy tales that there are many different kinds of powers in this world. One child is given a light saber, another a wizard's education. The trick is not to amass all the different kinds of power, but to use well the kind you've been granted."*

*Susan Cain*

