

THE MONTESSORI ADVANTAGE

The Early Years, from birth to age three, are Sensitive Periods. This is a critical time as children begin to learn from their environment quickly and easily. It also sets a strong foundation and instills skills for success and for whatever the role she or he will play in the future.

The focus of a Montessori education is to develop individuals who are capable, accountable, knowledgeable, and innovative; individuals who have the strong sense of self that is needed to thrive in the real world.



KEY ELEMENTS OF A MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

CHILD-CENTERED APPROACH



Teachers are known as Guides. They identify the needs of each child and give appropriate, individualized guidance based on their observations.

- Children are able to choose their own work based on their interests
- Child-directed work promotes self-confidence and encourages independence, critical thinking, and problem solving.

MULTI-AGE CLASSROOMS



Montessori Classrooms are multi-age. Children will spend a 3 year cycle in one classroom in order to create natural opportunities for independence, citizenship, and accountability (internal motivation).

- Eliminates competition and allows children to learn at their own pace
- Encourages peer to peer teaching, allowing older children to feel accomplished from being a mentor.
- Allows children to create strong bonds with teachers and peers by collaborating and socialization.

UNIQUE MATERIALS



Montessori Materials are designed to teach and self-correct, so children receive instant feedback with minimal assistance from a teacher. Each Montessori classroom is filled with age appropriate and purposeful lessons.

FREEDOM WITHIN LIMITS



Freedom within limits is an empowering concept. It embraces the notion of the child as an explorer who is capable of learning and doing for themselves. Montessori encourages freedom within limits through the design of the prepared environment.

WHAT MAKES A MONTESSORI EDUCATION UNIQUE?

PREPARED ENVIRONMENT

- The classroom is selected and arranged with authentic Montessori materials that are presented in a specific order to meet the needs and interests of a child. Prepared Montessori environments contain appropriately sized furniture and enough space for children to work alone or in small or large groups. The environment is designed to provide maximum independent learning and exploring.
- Provides structure and order
- Accommodates the needs of the child physically, socially, and cognitively
- Montessori materials that are beautiful and purposeful so that children can find joy in choosing their own work
- Materials are hands-on and self-correcting
- Montessori materials increase in complexity, moving from the simple to the abstract

WORK CYCLE

- Allows for deep concentration
- Gives children the time to complete a lesson without pressure
- Enables the children to find joy in their work by working at their own pace

PRACTICAL LIFE

- Practical Life is the cornerstone and the heart of a Montessori classroom. Children are learning basic life skills in order to become independent. These activities help Toddlers and Preschool Children learn to work independently and develop hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills and concentration.

SENSORIAL

- Sensorial materials help develop the five senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching. These lessons help the child classify, clarify, and understand the world that they live in. Sensorial also provides foundational work for The Base 10 system.

CONCRETE TO ABSTRACT LEARNING

- Children first use a hands-on approach to learning by using materials in the classroom that can be touched and absorbed and then gradually acknowledging the abstract theories.

MATERIALS & LESSONS DESIGNED TO ALLOW MOVEMENT

- Montessori builds the ability to concentrate with materials and lessons designed to allow movement and to fit developmental concentration level for each level.



OUTCOMES OF A MONTESSORI EDUCATION



Confidence
& Self-Esteem



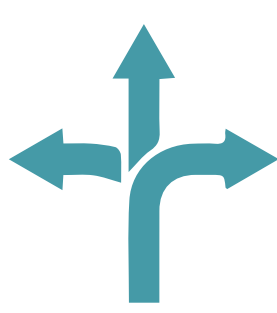
Independence
& Independent Thinking



Outstanding
Communication Skills



Respect for Themselves
& Their Community



Self-Motivation
& Self-Direction



Sense of Empathy
& Social Justice



Excellent Critical Thinking
& Problem-Solving Skills



Ability to Excel in Further Education
Based on a Great Foundation