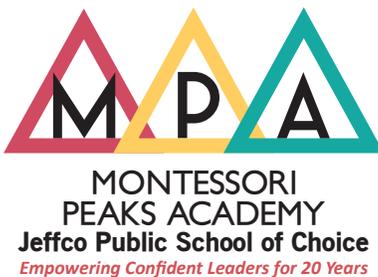


Primary



“Watching my 3-year-old choose to clean up after himself and put things away has been a direct action from what he’s learning at MPA. His clear thought processes are changing and shining through. Warms my heart!”
 –Primary parent



The Primary level of Montessori Peaks Academy consists of 6 classrooms with approximately 20 students. Ages range from 3 years old to kindergarten. Each classroom has a Montessori-certified lead guide and full-time assistant. The 3- and 4-year-olds attend our tuition-based preschool. Kindergarteners are our leaders and mentors in our primary classroom and attend specials, and are considered public school students. For a full day of kindergarten, students pay half-time tuition.

Children in the age range of 0-6 are considered, in Montessori terms, to be in the “Infancy, First Plane of Development.” This period is an unconscious time of growth, and the body is developing from head to toe. This phase is all about constructing the individual self. “Windows of opportunity” open specific innate learning doors as they get older, allowing certain skills to be learned more easily than at later time during their education.

Common characteristics of children ages 0-6	How MPA nurtures the 3 to 6-year-old student
Children are in the ego-centered time of growth. Their world is all about understanding where and how they fit into it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons and “works” designed for concrete thinkers allow a child to process their surroundings. • From head to toe the child is developing at an alarming rate to find their place. • Consistency and repetition within the classrooms provide a safe environment to self-explore. • Grace and courtesy expectations encourage our students to imitate polite, considerate and thoughtful behaviors, helping these qualities to become part of the child’s personality.
They learn physical capabilities through exploring all of five sensory experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our younger students spend much of their time exploring practical life skills, like sorting, sweeping and window washing. • Fine motor skills are activated with “works” that engage small hand-eye coordination. • Purposeful experiences solidify the cause and effect of what they are learning.
This time is a sensitive period to expanding their knowledge of language and concepts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imitating adults is encouraged, showing skills of observance and comprehension. • Students gain interest in symbolic representations, i.e. letter and word peaks, through offered materials. • Word choice progresses as vocabulary increases, including sentence structure.
There is a sense of fierce independence and the need for order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children feel an increased need for security, safety, warmth and protection. • We encourage social skills to be practiced, recognizing it is a need not a choice.