

What is Montessori?



“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn.”

—Dr. Maria Montessori

Montessori education offers children opportunities to develop their potential as they step out into the world as engaged, competent, responsible, and respectful citizens with an understanding and appreciation that learning is for life.

Each child is valued as a unique individual. Montessori education recognizes that children learn in different ways, and accommodates all learning styles. Students are free to learn at their own pace, each advancing through the curriculum, guided by the teacher and a personal learning plan.

Montessori classrooms develop skills for independence in stages. Classroom design, materials, and daily routines support the individual’s emerging sense of order, coordination, concentration, and independence.

Students are part of a caring community. The multi-age classroom—spanning three years—re-creates a family structure. Older students act as mentors; younger children feel supported and gain confidence about the challenges ahead. Teachers model respect, loving kindness, and a belief in peaceful conflict resolution.

Montessori students enjoy freedom within limits. Working within a structure set by their teachers, students participate in deciding what the focus of learning will be. Internal satisfaction drives the child’s curiosity, resulting in joyous learning sustainable throughout life.

Students are supported in becoming active seekers of knowledge. Teachers provide environments where students have the freedom and the tools to pursue answers to their own questions.

Self-correction and self-assessment play integral roles in a Montessori classroom. Students learn to look critically at their work, and become adept at recognizing, correcting, and learning from their errors.

Montessori students become confident, enthusiastic, self-directed learners because the structure gives them freedom and support to question, to probe deeply, and to make connections. They are able to think critically, work collaboratively, and act boldly—a skill set for the 21st century.



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