

WHAT IS MONTESSORI SCHOOL?

MONTESSORI

- Emphasis on cognitive and social development
- Teacher has an unobtrusive role in the classroom
- Environment and method encourage self-discipline
- Mainly individual instruction
- Mixed age grouping
- Grouping encourages children to teach and help each other
- Child chooses own work
- Child discovers own concepts from self-teaching materials
- Child works as long as wished on the chosen project
- Child sets own learning pace with uninterrupted work cycles
- Child spots their errors from the feedback of the material
- Child reinforces own learning by repetition of work and internal feeling of success
- Multi-sensory materials provided for physical exploration
- Organized program for learning how to care for oneself and the environment (Snack preparation, cleaning dishes, etc.)
- Child can work where chosen, move around, talk at will (yet not disturb work of others), group work is voluntary
- Organized program for parents to understand the Montessori philosophy and participate in the learning process

TRADITIONAL

- Emphasis on social development
- Teacher is the center of the classroom as "controller"
- Group and individual instruction
- Generally, block or period lessons
- Same age grouping
- Most teaching done by the teacher
- Curriculum structured for the child
- Child is guided to concepts by the teacher
- Child is generally allotted specific time for work
- Instruction pace usually set by the group norm
- Learning is reinforced externally by repetition and rewards
- Focus on product, use tests and grades
- If work is corrected, errors are usually pointed out by the teacher
- Fewer materials for sensory development
- Child is usually assigned their own chair and encouraged to sit still and listen to participate in group sessions
- Parent involvement is voluntary

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHILD LEAVES MONTESSORI?

Montessori children are particularly adaptable to multiple environments. They have learned to work independently and in groups from a young age. Being encouraged to make their own choices early on, these children are problem solvers who can make decisions, as well as manage their time well. Montessori children are also encouraged to exchange ideas and discuss their work freely with peers to help improve communication skills.

Research has shown that the best predictor of future success is a sense of self-esteem. Montessori programs are based on self-directed, non-competitive activities that help children develop good self-image and confidence to face challenges and change with optimism.