



THE MONTESSORI METHOD OF LEARNING

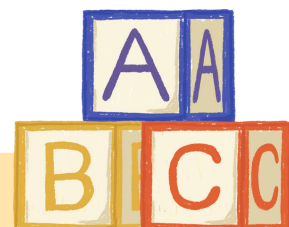
Born in Italy in 1870, Maria Montessori became the first woman doctor in her country's history. Throughout her years practising medicine she became increasingly interested in education, anthropology and psychology and after extensive study, founded her first 'Children's House' or nursery school in the early 1900s.

Maria Montessori noticed that if children were given the opportunity to partake in a challenging task, appropriate to their development stage, they quickly became absorbed and gratified by the task. No longer were rewards for achievement as important for the child as successfully completing the task for themselves. This in turn led to previously unruly children behaving well, and at the same time seemed to produce a progression of 'natural learning'.

The Montessori way is a child-centered approach which promotes independence, hands-on-learning, creativity and a lifelong love of learning.

Some of the main key principles of Montessori Education are :

- Children are shown respect.
- Kids have absorbent minds.
- Sensitive periods are critical for learning.
- Kids learn best in a prepared environment.
- Kids can teach themselves through self education.





CHILDREN ARE SHOWN RESPECT:

This Montessori principle teaches that respect must be mutual between a child and their teacher. By allowing children to go at their own pace and learn what they want to learn, they can develop a good sense of autonomy. Respect the child means giving them the freedom to make their own choices and concentrate on certain activities.

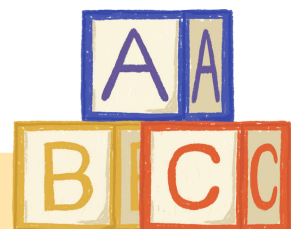
HAVE ABSORBENT MINDS:

The first six years are very important in the Montessori Method because this is the child's time to develop crucial things like language and basic motor skills. Children take in information all the time no matter when and how.

SENSITIVE PERIODS: - Critical for Learning

According to the Montessori Theory there are five categories of milestones that children experience during their first six years – language, sensory skills, movement and social skills and respectively. How long these periods last really depends on the child and how long they choose to spend developing that area. Sensitive periods are often characterized by mimicking, intense concentration, or repetitive or compulsive behaviour.

The Order Stage refers to the time from birth up to age five. This is when the child will start to develop reasoning skills, organizational skills, and the ability to understand their environment. This stage can often be characterized by the child acting repetitively and expressing cravings for consistency, routine, and structure. Children might enjoy putting things away or in order as much if not more than playing with their toys during this stage.



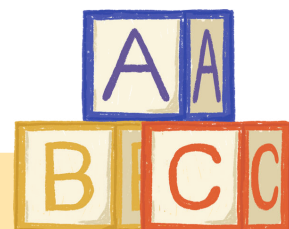


The Language Stage refers to the child's developing sensitivity for spoken language, written language and reading. The sensitivity period for spoken language can start around 7 months and last until 3 years of age. This is when they begin to mimic sounds and mouth movements and develop the ability to communicate verbally.

The Sensitivity Period for writing usually takes place around 3 and half to 4 and half while the reading sensitivity period starts at 4 and half and goes until 5 and half. Cultivate an environment that is rich in language to best help the child develop this skill. You can do this by speaking clearly to them with others

The Movement Stage can be divided into two stages. These stages begin at birth and then at age 2. The first stage is when the child begins to crawl, pull up, and eventually walk on their own. They also begin to develop their muscles and hand-eye coordination. The second stage begins at age 2 when the child begins to strengthen their grip and hold things with both hands. Playing outside and at the park are great ways to encourage the development of this skill.

Social Skills Stage that begins at age 2. This is the period in which the child begins to learn that they are part of a group. During this period, the child will most likely direct their skills and interests towards groups of people. Growing friendships will become more important as well as participating in group play. Teaching the child simple etiquette like saying please and thank you and providing them with ample opportunities to socialise and get to know children their age will enhance their social skills greatly.





THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT

The Montessori method suggests that children learn best in an environment that has been prepared to enable them to do things for themselves. Always child-centered the learning environment should promote freedom for children to explore materials of their choice. The environment should be prepared by making materials and experiences available to children in an orderly and independent way.

SELF-EDUCATION

Self-education is the concept that children are capable of educating themselves. This is one of the most important beliefs in the Montessori method. Montessori teachers provide the environment, the inspiration, the guidance and the encouragement for children to educate themselves.

