

EDUCATION 2000

A Montessori education helps children become self-confident, out-going and self-reliant

With concerns mounting over public education, many parents are turning towards private schools to educate their children.

The Montessori program is just one of the many schools available to parents.

The following are some of the frequently asked questions about the Montessori system.

What is the Montessori Method?

Montessori is a philosophy and method of education which emphasizes the potential of the young child and develops this potential by utilizing specially trained teachers and special teaching materials.

Montessori recognizes a natural curiosity in children and the desire to learn; the Montessori materials help children to understand what they learn by associating an abstract concept with a concrete sensorial experience.

The Montessori method stresses that children learn and progress at their own pace so that fast learners are not held back and slow learners are not frustrated by their inability to keep up.

Why should you send your child to a Montessori school?

The best time to start your child's education is during the early years - two and a half to three years, when most of a child's intelligence and social characteristics are formed.

Fifty per cent of the child's mental develop-

ment occurs before four years of age. In a Montessori school, your child will learn to think in a logical pattern and to deal with reality. Children with a Montessori background become better prepared to cope with the complex challenges of tomorrow's world.

What does Montessori offer my child?

Montessori allows children to experience the excitement of learning by their own choice.

Dr. Montessori observed that it was easier for a child to learn a particular skill during the corresponding sensitive period that at any other time in life.

These are periods of intense fascination for learning a particular skill. Montessori allows children to select individual activities which corresponds to their own periods of interest and readiness and to progress at their own pace.

Will this approach help my child with difficulties in reading, spelling and math?

A multi-faceted approach to reading and spelling, which includes phonetic and sight word approach plus colour-coding of materials, enable children to move at their own pace.

Does the Montessori environment foster creativity?

Experience tells us that creating cannot be taught and that the child's environment tends to either foster


or restrict creative potential. To foster creativity, Montessori realized that the environment must be beautiful, harmonious and based on reality in order for children to organize their perceptions of it.

Then, they are capable of selecting and emphasizing those processes necessary for creative endeavors. Children, therefore, need freedom to develop creativity - freedom to select what attracts them in their environment, to relate to it without interruption and for as long as they like, to discover solutions and ideas and select answers on their own and to communicate and share their discoveries with others at will. Creativity is involved with the intellectual as well as the aesthetic processes of the mind. Children in the Montessori classroom are free from judgment by an outside authority that inhibits the creative impulse.

Why are Montessori children generally self-confident, out-going and self-reliant?

Montessori is based on a profound respect for each child's personality. Children work from their own free choice and are allowed a large measure of independence which forms the basis of self-discipline. As children progress at their own pace and successfully complete the self-correcting exercise, they develop confidence in their ability to understand their achievement.

CHAPEL PLACE DAYCARE CENTER



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