



What is Montessori Education?

Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952) developed her philosophy of education based upon actual observations of children and her training in medicine, psychology and anthropology. The Montessori method of teaching aims for the fullest development of the whole child, which is preparation for life.

Early in life, children pass through sensitive periods in their development. During this time, they are particularly receptive to external stimuli. The Montessori classroom takes advantage of these sensitive periods, and introduces the child to work with materials which are specially designed to develop and enhance the senses, and are intended to help the child focus their attention on one particular quality. The children work at their own level. Dr. Montessori described the child's mind between the time of birth and six years as the "absorbent mind". It is during this stage that a child has tremendous ability to learn and assimilate without conscious effort, from the world around them.

Everything in a Montessori classroom has a specific use or purpose. There is nothing in the prepared environment that the child cannot see or touch. All of the furniture and equipment is scaled down to the child's size and is within easy reach.

