



Lifetime Montessori School

How is Montessori different than traditional preschool/kindergarten?

Montessori children are given the trust and respect to make their own choices and judgments. They are given a space to explore their interests at the pace they are comfortable with. This leads to children who have a great self-awareness, high self-esteem and a love of learning and challenges. Even with only 3 years of experience, Montessori children grow into confident, capable adults who love to explore and think "outside of the box". We truly believe that children are capable of amazing things at a younger age than most people consider. We nurture your child's Inner Teacher and allow them the space and time to explore and discover their wonderful abilities.



Who was Dr. Montessori?

Dr. Montessori was born in Chiaravalle, Italy in 1870. She was the first female physician in Italy upon her graduation from medical school in 1896. In 1906 Dr. Montessori gave up both her university chair and her medical practice to work with sixty children in the San Lorenzo district of Rome. This became the first *Casa dei Bambini*, or "Children's House." This is where she developed the Montessori method of education, based upon her scientific observations of these children's ability to absorb knowledge from their surroundings, as well as their tireless interest in manipulating their environment. Every piece of equipment, every exercise, every method Dr. Montessori developed was based on what she observed children to do "naturally," by themselves, unassisted by adults.

What is AMI?

Dr. Montessori opened the Montessori Training Centre in Laren, Netherlands, in 1938, and founded a series of teacher training courses in India in 1939. This training center is called *Association Montessori Internationale* and continues to train Teachers around the world today. One of their many objectives is: "Spreading and upholding the pedagogical principles and practice formulated by Dr Maria Montessori, which ensure the independence of the child's personality through successive stages of growth until he reaches full normal development by means of his own activity". As Montessori was never copyrighted there are many variations on the Montessori Method out there, a few having very little to do with the Montessori theory or materials. It is the duty of parents to explore the different schools out there and find the right Montessori for their child!



What activities will you offer our child each day?

The activities that children do in the classroom are called "work". We try to develop a positive association between school, learning and work for the children. We also want to show the children that we respect and appreciate their efforts in creating themselves as a person in their community. It is the teacher's job to incorporate "extracurricular" activities into the classroom. We have music, art, science (zoology, botany etc.), geography and more!

Will you offer a summer program?

Yes. We know that families are very busy and working each summer, so we do offer a summer program to whoever needs one. Our program will have some Montessori related activities, but will be more of a camp-like atmosphere!

Why is the Primary Program a 3-year program?

Every year is an important year for the child. The first year is one in which they are familiarizing themselves with the classroom, learning how to care for the self and the environment. The children begin to learn to focus and to concentrate. As the child looks around in their new environment they notice older children working on fascinating materials. The Montessori method has found that the younger children in the classroom respond faster when emulating the older children. The second year is just as important. An ease and comfort of the environment allows your child to jump right into choosing work – no adjustment time is wasted. Your child now has concentration and can learn how to teach themselves anything they show interest in. The child notices the older children using materials just out of their reach, giving the child motivation to practice their lessons further. The third year is the most important year. Not only is the child more capable of learning even greater riches through the now very familiar materials, they are now at the top of the class. The child can truly feel confident, secure and independent with high self-esteem. The child now shares work and lessons with the smaller children in the class, solidifying the knowledge of all that they have learned in the past years. And then those new, young children look up to your now older child and the cycle starts again.



What is the school day schedule?

The typical school day runs from 8:30 to 12:30 for a half day, 8:30 to 2:30 for a full day. The children arrive at school and will play on the playground for about 15 minutes. By 9 am everyone is inside getting down to work. The children are in their classroom or their garden until about 11:30. Then everyone will eat and play on the playground until 12:30. At this time the half day students go home and the full day students settle in for either a nap or some more advanced work until 2:30 when everyone heads home for the day!

What are your discipline tactics?

We at Lifetime Montessori do not believe in "time-outs". We offer the children consistent natural consequences to their actions. We believe that children can understand logic and that we can explain what the needs of the children and the environment are. We would only remove a child from a situation if aggression occurred. If a child bites another, we send them home immediately. Other than that, if one child strikes another, we simply state "I'm worried you might hurt one of my friends right now, you may not be with us until you feel you can control your actions". We then also do a lot of role modeling to show children how one would use words to express themselves instead of their body.



Do you offer day care before and after school?

Yes, we do offer care starting at 7:30 am until your child's school day starts. We also offer care after school until 5:30 pm.

Are there any discounts related to the programs?

If you have more than one child in the school then each additional child after the first can receive a 5% discount off tuition. If you pay for the year in advance, then you'll receive 5% off of tuition.