

# A Montessori Primer

*The Montessori method is something many parents have heard about, but most are unfamiliar with its specifics. Here are answers to some common questions about Montessori.*

## How is Montessori different than traditional education?

Montessori children are given the trust and respect to make their own choices and judgments; they receive space to explore their interests at the pace they're comfortable with. **This leads to children who have great self-awareness**, high self-esteem, and a love of learning and challenges.

**Montessori children grow into confident, capable adults** who love to think "outside the box." We feel children are capable of amazing things at a younger age than most people consider. We nurture children's "inner teachers" and allow them to discover their wonderful abilities.



## Who was Dr. Montessori?

Dr. Maria Montessori, who was born in Chiaravalle, Italy in 1870, was the first female physician in her native land. In 1906, she gave up a university chair and her medical practice to work with 60 children in Rome's San Lorenzo district. This became the first Casa dei Bambini ("Children's House"), and is where she developed the Montessori method of education.

Every piece of equipment and exercise is based on her scientific observations of **children's ability to absorb knowledge from their surroundings** and their tireless interest in manipulating their environment—things they do "naturally."



## 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. The training center, *Association Montessori Internationale* (AMI), continues to train teachers around the world today. One of its many objectives is, "Spreading and upholding the pedagogical principles and practice formulated by Dr. Maria Montessori, which ensures the **independence of the child's personality** through successive stages of growth until he reaches full normal development by means of his own activity."

Many variations of the Montessori method exist, since it was never copyrighted, and a few have very little to do with Montessori theory or materials. It's up to parents to explore the different schools to find the right Montessori for their child.

**"Free the child's potential and you will transform him into the world."**

*—Maria Montessori*

For further information or to schedule a private tour,  
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