

## Primary

The Montessori Primary program offers a unique, mixed-age classroom environment, for children approximately 3 to 5 years old. Here, children engage in individual learning experiences, as well as one-on-one interactions, which are integral to the Montessori Method.

As children get older, they tend to see things that adults find ordinary as very interesting and special. Practical life exercises like sorting, pouring, or washing dishes absorb them completely.

We recognize this as the beginning of control and coordination of mind and body. That's why Montessori learning revolves around tangible, hands-on experiences.

Children use concrete materials to learn math; movable alphabet letters to explore language; and cubes, cylinders and other objects to categorize, find spatial relationships, and more. Practical learning experiences explore key subjects including:

### Language from Spoken to Written

The joy of learning is evident to all parents; there is always jubilation over a child's first spoken word.

The Montessori preschool classroom emphasizes spoken language as the foundation for all linguistic expression. Throughout the entire Montessori environment the child hears and uses precise vocabulary for all the activities. The child is encouraged to converse with peers and staff.

Reading is taught phonetically as the child is ready. The concrete materials, from the sandpaper letters to the beginning of sentence analysis, allow the child to take small, logical, sequential steps to independent, fluent reading. Language work leads into cultural subjects, extending the child's vocabulary and working with the child's fascination of her environment.

### Art and Music: Integrated Into the Prepared Environment

The arts are not treated as specialty subjects in Montessori. Instead, art and music activities are viewed as integral forms of self-expression, and they complement and enhance the children's ongoing explorations, including the enrichment of vocabulary. The materials for art and music are integrated into the prepared environment as part of the day-to-day activities of the children.

### Practical Life: The Skills of Daily Living

As every parent knows, the preschool child wants to be with adults, to take part in the activities of daily adult life. The Montessori Practical Life materials allow him to do just that. When a child enters the preschool at three years of age, the Practical Life area provides the link between home and school. In the classroom, with child-sized tools that actually work, a young child is able to perform the same activities he has seen adults do: polishing, scrubbing, pouring, sweeping, etc. The pace is unhurried, and an adult is nearby to help if needed, but not to interfere.

These exercises correspond to a child's sensitive period for refinement of movement and coordination as well as his growing sense of independence. "I can do it myself" is the motto the young child, and Montessori encourages and fosters this independence.

### Sensorial: Exploring the World

The world is color, size, dimension, shape, form, sound, touch, taste, and smell. In order to continue her creative task of development, a child needs to satisfy and express the impressions she has already received. The Sensorial

Montessori materials use the child's senses to clarify, classify, and comprehend the world. The Sensorial materials are specifically designed to teach multi-sensually and to educate the senses.

By appealing directly to the young child's active sensory antennae, learning is a natural result of the child's desire to explore.

## Language and Reading

The vibrant conversations in the classroom lead to the formal teaching of reading. Reading is taught phonetically, following the natural sequence of oral language acquisition. The child progresses from spelling words to constructing sentences. The formal structured reading curriculum is supported by storytelling, poetry reading, and singing, thus fostering a joy and desire to understand the written word.

## Mathematics: From Concrete to Abstract

Preschool-aged children have naturally mathematical minds. They have the capacity to reason, to calculate, and to estimate. They are intensely conscious of quantity, counting pebbles on the beach or cookies for dessert. The concrete Montessori Mathematical materials allow these sensorial explorers to begin their mathematical journey from the concrete to the abstract through manipulation, experimentation, and invention.

The Mathematics materials build on each other in increasing complexity so that the child using them will experience the thrill of discovery for herself as part of a natural progression.

## Culture

The work of classification and language are extended in the Cultural area. Materials are available to enable scientific exploration of biology, geography, history, and physical/earth science.

We have a "cosmic" approach which allows maps, flags, booklets, and models of land and water formation to be used by the children to explore the world's continents and oceans, and people and customs, leading to an appreciation of the human family with its rich variety.

# Preschool-Kindergarten: Ages 3-6 Curriculum

## Practical Life

- Dressing independently
- Purposeful activities
  - Polishing
  - Dusting
  - Table washing
  - Food preparation
- Exercises for increasing sense of order:
  - Movement from left to right
  - Completion of activities
  - Returning activities to shelf
- Exercises for increasing ability to concentrate
- Development of logical thought process
- Exercises for control of movement:
  - Gross and fine motor
  - Hand-to-eye coordination

- Care of indoor/outdoor environments
- Gardening

### Language Arts

- Oral expression:
  - Listening
  - Communication skills that include adequate verbal expression
  - Articulation
  - Vocabulary enrichment
  - Speaking in front of peers
  - Show and Tell
  - Student presentations
- Reading:
  - Phonetic sounds and names of letters
  - Word building skills
  - Decoding 3- to 4-letter words
  - Sight words
  - Phonograms
- Literature discussions:
  - Listening skills
  - Read-aloud sessions of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry
  - Creative stories
- Writing:
  - Simple compositions
  - Pencil control
  - correct letter formation and spatial considerations
  - Simple research in conjunction with cultural activities
  - Beginning punctuation

### Science

- Classification:
  - Living and nonliving
  - Vertebrate and invertebrate
  - Vertebrate classes
- Animal grouping
- External parts of vertebrates
- Weather
- Human body
- Parts of a plant
- Life cycles
- Nutrition
- Classification of plants
- Magnetic and nonmagnetic
- Space and solar systems
- Basic gardening experience
- Rocks/minerals
- Simple experiments

### Grace / Courtesy

- Respect for self

- Respect for peers
- Respect for adults
- Manners
- Classroom protocol
- Visitors
- Meal etiquette
- Introduction and greetings

### **Fine Arts**

- Exploration of mediums
- Elements of art:
  - Shape
  - Color
  - Texture
- Art History
- Famous artists
- Art from different continents

### **History / Geography**

- The calendar
- Days of the week
- Months of the year
- Seasons
- Telling time to the hour
- Day in the life
- Globe as Earth's shape
- Continents/countries
- India states
- Land and water forms
- Map-making skills
- Oceans
- Festivals around the world and India

### **Math**

- Number recognition
- Concrete materials to explore place value:
  - Units
  - Tens
  - Hundreds
  - Thousands
- Sequencing place value
- Concrete materials to perform operations:
  - Addition
  - Subtraction
  - Multiplication
  - Division
- Written numerals 1-1000
- Skip counting
- Even and odd numbers
- Fractions

- Measurement
- Simple money

## Sensorial

- Identification, comparison, gradation of colors, shapes, sounds, and sizes:
  - Hand-to-eye coordination
  - Spatial awareness
- Weight, temperature
- Dimension - length, width, height
- Sensorial exploration of plane figures, geometric solids, and regular polygons
- Algebra - binomial
- Trinomial cubes

## French

- Basic vocabulary:
  - Animals
  - Family members
  - Colors
  - Clothing
  - Days, months, seasons
- Responding to common personal questions and commands
- French songs

## Music

- Feeling a steady beat
- Vocal exploration through speaking and singing
- Tuneful singing of simple, age-appropriate folk song repertoire (pentatonic)
- Pitch matching

## P.E.

- Gross motor movement
- Cardiovascular activities (i.e., pacing)
- Flexibility
- Sportsmanship
- Cooperative games
- Introduction to core strengthening
- Increase flexibility
- Foster good sportsmanship