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# AMERICAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

NOTEWORTHY NEWS FROM AMERICAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL



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08/08 OPEN HOUSE

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## TIME TO ENROLL: 5 BENEFITS OF MONTESSORI EDUCATION

GRACE WONG

As a parent, choosing the setting at which your child spends 6-8 hours for 5 days a week can be overwhelming. According to UNICEF, "Early childhood, which spans the period up to 8 years of age, is critical for cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development".

This is why you've begged to get the latest scoop from fellow parents about which daycares and schools they recommend.

You've also possibly heard the buzz about Montessori schools, but are unsure what truly makes them different from traditional ones (other than Jeff Bezos and Stephen Curry being former Montessori students).

Other than having no homework to slave over after school, here are some reasons why you should consider a Montessori school.

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### **1. Montessori Education is not teacher-centered but rather child-focused.**

In a traditional school setting, classes are often conducted in a lecture-style, with the teacher directing at the front of the classroom to disperse knowledge to students. In this context, the children are focused on pleasing the teacher and are passive recipients of knowledge, until they are given assignments with formulas to solve the problems or construct the models before them.

In a Montessori classroom, the teacher acts as an observer to the child's development. The children are invited into a beautiful, carefully structured, and distraction-free environment that draws them to explore subject materials suitable for their development age.

The teacher not only meticulously crafts a classroom system but is a learned guide who demonstrates how to use the hands-on learning materials. The children are then allowed to explore at their own pace. These materials have been designed to be self-correcting, allowing children to explore and make mistakes without the pressure or approval from a teacher or parent.

### **2. The structure of the room, its beauty, and a tight schedule bring safety that is helpful for children to concentrate on their exploration.**

Maria Montessori once said, "The child should live in an environment of beauty."

She was an advocate for a highly organized, scientifically measured, yet beautiful and poetic environment.

In a Montessori classroom, you can see low-height child-accessible counters, tables, chairs, and shelves. Within these shelves, materials are organized in sequence from concrete to abstract. They are encouraged to find the puzzle they want to complete on their own or to walk over to the food station to prepare the classroom snack, be it sliced apples or pancakes. In this way, the teacher can both observe and engage when necessary in the children's own decision-making and discovery process. They take detailed notes of which activities the child has tried or completed and which they can be further encouraged to choose.

A Montessori classroom is not only orderly and uncluttered but has decorations and materials with calm color schemes. Most furnishings and educational materials are made of wood or natural material (versus plastic). This creates an environment that is peaceful and not unnecessarily stimulating.



**"The child should live in an environment of beauty."**

**- Maria Montessori**

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***I can  
&  
I will***

### **3. Rather than separated by grade, Montessori schools are separated into multi-age groups prospering a children's social education.**

Perhaps, it's confusing as to why Montessori classrooms are not split in each age. Wouldn't the older children get bored in classrooms, while watching the younger ones struggle through lessons? Wouldn't older children bully the younger children, as often seen in traditional school contexts?

The Montessori curriculum is structured not by grade but by social development ages. This takes into account language development, conflict-resolution skills, motor skills, and learning habits.

Actually, mixed-age classrooms eliminate the competition you see in same-age ones. One of the major reasons is this environment gives each child time to develop at their own pace and allows for individualized curriculum adjustments. There is less pressure to graduate to the next grade and to achieve assignments in the same exact way each other student is or the way that testing-driven learning forces.

Furthermore, the older children in a Montessori classroom learn a sense of responsibility and leadership in their last year in a class. They serve as role models and teach the younger students how to accomplish tasks, reinforcing their own understanding of the subject or activity. This is key in the children's social growth and Montessori's passion for raising societal and environmental caretakers.

### **4. Children are given ample time in nature.**

Here in the city, time in nature can often be brushed off. However, Montessorians know that being in nature is not only teaching us about the scientific rhythms governing our world but is healing to the human spirit. It's common for teachers to take children on a stroll to observe the trees turning orange while discussing how the green pigment chlorophyll is breaking down.

Gardening is a major trait of the Montessori experience. Through tending to the earth, children learn the biology of growing plants and food. One fun work task could be picking the basil and tomatoes in their school garden and cutting them up for their bruschetta snack before naptime.



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Creativity is intelligence  
having fun.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

## 5. The method is friendly and flexible to those with special needs.

Maria Montessori, herself, developed her way of teaching through dedication to children with “deficiencies” in the slums of Rome. Therefore, the curriculum has been based on the understanding that these children weren’t deficient or problematic but that pedagogical methods should be altered and become more inclusive.

This is the reason the Montessori method is truly for all children. They are given three years with one teacher, which is reassuring for a child with exceptional circumstances who will have the time to feel secure in their connections with other students. It will also help them to be secure in their class structure and schedule without having to abruptly change after one year.

All children in Montessori are taught values of peace, respect, and cooperation and are constantly enforced in making sure that the way they interact with their own bodies and others’ must be safe and mindful. With this social atmosphere enforced, it’s helpful for those with exceptionalities to feel connected and not left out or discriminated against.

In any case, with these concerns, it is always helpful to continue a dialogue with their class teacher over the years to see how the routine can be flexed to fit their child’s unique needs.

**Overall**, the biggest motivator to enter into our school, {insert school name} is because we foster a love of learning. We believe in each child’s fullest potential and are ready to encourage them, no matter their learning preferences. We believe each child has the innate ability to be in wonder with the world and to explore all it has to give, eventually becoming proactive citizens to care for it.

**If you’d like to find out more about our school, its values, and to even observe a class, please fill out this from {insert url} and we will connect with you right away!**

**EMAIL**  
info@americanmontessori.org

**WEB**  
americanmontessori.org