

## What does "Montessori" mean?

- I. Who was Maria Montessori?
  
- II. Montessori Key Concepts
  - A. The Prepared Environment
    - 1. is child-sized and allows children to be successful.
    - 2. contains materials that are arranged sequentially.
    - 3. may change according to the needs of the children.
  
  - B. Multi-Age Groupings
    - 1. encourages peer teaching among students.
    - 2. improve academic progress according to research.
    - 3. develop social skills and higher degrees of self esteem.
  
  - C. Independent Learning
    - 1. is discovery based and "hands-on."
    - 2. allows children to be continuously challenged by working at their own pace.
  
  - D. Uninterrupted Work Time/Daily Work Cycle
    - 1. provides time for students to become engrossed in work (increases attention span).
    - 2. allows teachers to work with children individually and in small groups.
    - 3. encourages children learn to take responsibility for their own learning by referring to daily work plans and contracts.
    - 4. gives students "freedom within limits" to choose work that interests them while still completing work in all subject areas.
  
  - E. Teachers and Assistants
    - 1. assume the roles of guides in the classroom.
    - 2. observe and communicate daily to best serve the needs of the children.

III. Did you know??

- A. There are 8,000 Montessori schools worldwide on every continent except Antarctica.
- B. There are approximately 5,000 Montessori schools in the United States.
- C. There are 250-300 public Montessori schools in the United States.
- D. There are 120 public charter Montessori schools in the United States.

IV. Parent Resources

A. Books

- 1. Montessori: A Modern Approach by Paula Polk Lillard  
( our first Montessori Book Club book!)
- 2. Montessori Today by Paula Polk Lillard
- 3. Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius by Angeline Stoll Lillard and An Vu
- 4. The Montessori Method by Maria Montessori
- 5. The Absorbent Mind by Maria Montessori
- 6. Discovery of the Child by Maria Montessori
- 7. Secret of Childhood by Maria Montessori
- 8. Montessori From the Start: The Child at Home from Birth to Age Three by Paula Polk Lillard and Lynn Lillard Jessen
- 9. Teaching Montessori in the Home: the Preschool Years by Elizabeth G. Hainstock and Lee Davis
- 10. Teach Me to Do It Myself: Montessori Activities for You and Your Child by Maja Pitamic

B. Websites

- 1. [www.montessoriconnections.com](http://www.montessoriconnections.com)
- 2. [www.montessori.org](http://www.montessori.org)
- 3. [www.montessori-namta.org](http://www.montessori-namta.org)
- 4. [www.amshg.org](http://www.amshg.org)

V. More To Come This Year!!

- A. Book Club Discussions (and more books to borrow)
- B. Video and DVD Presentations
- C. Classroom Observations
- D. Explanations of Materials
- E. Chances to Volunteer