

What is Montessori Education?

I. Montessori Key Concepts

- 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.

- 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.

- Independent Learning
 1. is discovery based and "hands-on."
 2. allows children to be continuously challenged by working at their own pace.

- 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.

- 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.

II. Did you know??

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

III. 2009 AMS Spring Conference

- Marriot Hotel on Canal Street, here in New Orleans
- Thursday, February 26- Sunday, March 1, 2009 (during Mardi Gras Break)
- Audubon Teachers and Assistants will attend conference sessions along with 10-12 parents
- Many parent volunteers are needed before and during the conference- this is a fast and easy way to fulfill Family Volunteer hours
- Please visit <http://www.amshq.org/conference2009annual.htm> for more information about the conference

IV. Parent Resources:

- Books and DVDs (see parent reviews)
- Websites
 1. www.montessoriconnections.com
 2. www.montessori.org
 3. www.montessori-namta.org

4. www.amshg.org