



FACT SHEET:

CHARACTERISTICS OF MONTESSORI EDUCATION

The characteristics of a Montessori programme include:

- Mixed age groups which not only offer a wide range of activities to spark children's interest but also enable children to learn from others and learn by helping others.
- Freedom for children to work at their own pace, without interruption, choosing from a range of activities that are developmentally challenging and appropriate.
- Exploration is encouraged so that children find things out for themselves, make mistakes and correct them independently.
- Respect for each child as an individual personality with unique talents.
- Respect for others, the community and the environment.

Montessori believes that:

- All children have the right to an environment that is carefully prepared so that it meets and nurtures the developmental needs of each child.
- The child is an active participant in the learning process.
- Multi-age groups aligned with developmental planes provide for optimal social, emotional and cognitive learning.
- Self-discovery and exploration are important parts of the learning process.
- A non-competitive approach and the use of self-correcting materials promotes independence and self-confidence.
- The culturally diverse backgrounds of families and their active involvement in the centre enrich and foster a community that embraces tolerance and cooperation.

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