



Nurturing the Whole Child: Understanding the Montessori Curriculum

Where Learning Begins: The Montessori Approach

At Royal Montessori Academy, we embrace a child-centered approach that honors each child's natural development.¹ Our curriculum respects children's innate drive to learn, empowering them to discover interconnected areas of study that cultivate the whole child.²

Our learning environments are thoughtfully prepared to foster independence, concentration, and joy in discovery, which are the foundations of lifelong learning.

The Seven Areas of the Montessori Curriculum

Practical Life

The building blocks of independence! In this area, children develop essential life skills that foster autonomy and confidence through meaningful activities:

- Fine and gross motor skill development
- Self-care routines and environmental awareness
- Grace and courtesy in social interactions
- Order, concentration, and coordination

Children practice real-world activities like pouring, buttoning, and food preparation that cultivate a "can-do" spirit and lay the groundwork for all future learning.

Sensorial

This is the realm of sensory discovery where children refine their senses through exploration and classification. Our specialized materials isolate each sense, allowing children to:

- Distinguish differences in dimension, color, texture, and sound
- Develop refined perception and discrimination
- Build vocabulary to describe sensory experiences
- Create foundations for more abstract learning in mathematics and language

These concrete sensory experiences transform into abstract ideas as children interact with carefully designed materials.

Language

The journey to literacy begins with spoken language and blossoms into reading and writing through a carefully sequenced approach:

- Enriched vocabulary development through conversation and storytelling
- Phonetic awareness through hands-on materials
- Letter sounds before letter names is a distinctive Montessori approach

- Writing as a precursor to reading
- Exploration of grammar, word study, and creative expression

Our language-rich environment prepares children for a lifetime of confident communication and expression.

Mathematics

Mathematics in Montessori is a hands-on adventure! Using concrete materials, children build an understanding of mathematical concepts:

- Numeration and the decimal system
- Operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)
- Fractions, geometry, and measurement
- Progression from concrete to abstract understanding

Children manipulate beads, rods, and other materials to develop a deep sensorial foundation in mathematical thinking that prepares them for higher-level concepts.

Culture and Geography

The world becomes our classroom through cultural and geographical studies that celebrate human diversity:

- Exploration of physical geography through puzzle maps and globes
- Introduction to diverse cultures, traditions, and celebrations
- Understanding of history and human contributions
- Appreciation for our interconnected world

These studies spark curiosity about the rich tapestry of human experience and our place within it.

Science

Wonder and discovery guide our approach to science as children explore:

- Botanical and zoological classification
- Physical science experiments and observations
- Environmental awareness and responsibility
- The scientific process through hands-on exploration³

Environmental stewardship is central to our science curriculum.⁴ Children develop ecological awareness through gardening projects, recycling initiatives, and conservation activities. We cultivate respect for all living things and our interconnected planet, empowering students to become thoughtful caretakers of their environment. Through seasonal observations and outdoor learning, children develop meaningful connections to nature that inspire lifelong environmental responsibility.⁵

Both inside and outside the classroom, children make observations, ask questions, and uncover amazing discoveries about the natural world.

Music and The Arts

Creativity flourishes through artistic and musical expression:

- Exploration of various artistic mediums
- Musical concepts, instruments, and appreciation

- Self-expression and aesthetic awareness
- Process-oriented creative experiences

Children develop appreciation for the arts as they express their unique ideas and perspectives.

Spiritual Development in Our Classroom

At Royal Montessori Academy, we honor the spiritual dimension of each child's development through:

- Daily prayers that nurture gratitude and compassion
- Celebration of wonder and awe in the natural world
- Respect for diverse spiritual traditions
- Grace and courtesy as expressions of care for others

Our approach recognizes that spiritual awareness is an integral part of the whole child, fostering respect, empathy, and a sense of interconnectedness.

Supporting Your Child's Learning Journey at Home

Cosmic Questions

- Cosmic education connects children to the universe and their place within it. You can extend this learning at home by:
- Responding to your child's "big questions" with wonder rather than immediate answers
- Exploring nature together with curiosity and respect
- Discussing how all living things are connected
- Encouraging your child to consider their unique contributions to their family and community

Practical Wisdom for Parents

- Create prepared environments that foster independence
- Follow your child's interests while introducing new possibilities
- Offer "just enough" help by providing not too much, not too little
- Model grace, courtesy, and a love of learning
- Celebrate the process rather than focusing solely on outcomes

Common Montessori Terms

Absorbent Mind: The young child's ability to effortlessly absorb impressions from their environment

Grace and Courtesy: Lessons that help children develop social awareness and interpersonal skills

Guide: The Montessori term for a teacher who directs children's activity but does not control it

Learning Environment: The carefully prepared classroom that allows for self-directed discovery

Normalization: The process whereby a child becomes a positive member of the learning community

Prepared Environment: A thoughtfully designed space that supports independence and meets developmental needs

Sensitive Periods: Critical windows of opportunity when children are particularly receptive to certain types of learning

Three-Period Lesson: A teaching method that introduces, reinforces, and confirms understanding



Resources for Your Family's Journey

Online Resources:

[Association Montessori Internationale](#)

[American Montessori Society](#)

[North American Montessori Teachers' Association](#)

Books:

The Absorbent Mind by Maria Montessori

Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius by Angeline Stoll Lillard

Montessori Today by Paula Polk Lillard



ROYAL MONTESSORI ACADEMY
Where Learning Begins

By understanding the Montessori approach and partnering with us in your child's education, you're helping nurture their natural love of learning and supporting their development as confident, capable, and compassionate individuals.

Citations

1. Montessori, M. (1995). *The Absorbent Mind*. Henry Holt and Company.
2. Lillard, A. S. (2017). *Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius*. Oxford University Press.
3. American Montessori Society. (2023). "Science in the Montessori Classroom." [American Montessori Society](#).
4. North American Montessori Center. (2022). *Montessori and Environmental Education*. [NAMC Teacher Training Blog](#).
5. Wilson, R. A. (2018). *Nature and Young Children: Encouraging Creative Play and Learning in Natural Environments*. Routledge.