



Montessori Program Plan

The Montessori method of teaching is based on three key foundational principles.

The Montessori Materials

- ❖ The “keys” to learning, are given via a presentation to the child as an offering
- ❖ Promotes purposeful work and highlights the “real” in the environment
- ❖ Scientific: Specific dimensions are made to exact scale
- ❖ Encourage repetition: The child repeats the work, which in turn fosters a natural love for learning and offers extensions in their learning to gain knowledge
- ❖ Control of Error: This is built into the material which helps the child to self-discover his/her errors independently of the adult
- ❖ Isolation of Difficulty: Designed to isolate one variable or concept at a time
- ❖ Indirect Aim: A learning outcome in the material to lead to the development of other skills. Ex: Presentations are modeled left to right in sequences as preparation for reading and writing skills
- ❖ Direct Aim: Designed to help the child link his knowledge to the material
Ex: Geography materials are given exact names such as globes, continents, oceans, lakes, islands, capes, bays, peninsulas, and more to increase their vocabulary and gain knowledge

The Prepared Environment: Known as the “Children’s House”

- ❖ Child-sized to meet the needs of the child three to six years old
- ❖ Child-centered; orderly, attractive, free of visual clutter, encourages purposeful movement, pictures are beautiful, non-cartoon, and hung at child’s eye level
- ❖ Promotes sensorial contact for the child by working of their hands
- ❖ Focused on the real yet invites creative imagination and deeper exploration
- ❖ Materials are displayed in order of difficulty always right to left and top to bottom on shelves so that the child can predict future learning and foster an internal drive
- ❖ Mixed age ranges; encourages peer teaching, role modeling, and helping others

The Prepared Adult:

- ❖ Facilitates and maintains a high-quality authentic Montessori environment
- ❖ Observes the children to meet and respond to their individual needs
- ❖ Upholds clear communication through daily conversations and formal conferences
- ❖ Understands and implements the Montessori Theories
- ❖ Pursues ongoing Early Childhood Education and Catholic Formation



The Areas in the Montessori Environment

Practical Life: *An extension of the home environment with real learning experiences.*

- ❖ Care of Self/Dressing frames: a full spectrum of frames increasing in difficulty
- ❖ Grace and Courtesy Lessons
- ❖ Care of environment; sweeping, pouring, measuring, polishing, plant care, dusting, etc.
- ❖ Coordination of movement activities: sorting, pairing, transferring, calculating, sewing
- ❖ Care of nature: Maintaining care of bird feeders and growing plants

Sensorial Materials: *Aide in the refinement of the child's senses and knowledge.*

- ❖ Knowledge and visual discrimination of two- and three-dimensional shapes
- ❖ Develops a natural sense of order and deeper exploration of patterns
- ❖ Materials are built scientifically and based on the concept of ten
- ❖ Increase vocabulary such as rods, cubes, prisms, Binomials, and Trinomials

Language Materials: *Build the foundation of the love of reading and writing.*

- ❖ Increase vocabulary and spoken language with rich literature
- ❖ Connect the letter symbol with the corresponding sound
- ❖ Help the child hear the individual sounds in a word
- ❖ Develop early writing skills
- ❖ Learn to decode early readers and acquire knowledge of Sight Words
- ❖ Listen to classic books, Catholic stories/lives of the saints, and poetry

Math Materials: *Foundational work of math concepts*

- ❖ Help the child understand quantity and symbol associations
- ❖ Work with materials based on 1-10 and the concept of zero
- ❖ Decimal System 1,10, 100, and 1,000
- ❖ Linear Counting/Skip Counting Patterns
- ❖ Work with operations of Addition, Subtraction, and Multiplication
- ❖ Fractions – The whole to the twelfth

Geography/Cultural Studies: *Focus on the world and continent study*

- ❖ Give the whole concept to the world through a series of globes
- ❖ Introduce the Hemisphere map and Continent puzzle maps
- ❖ Land Formations
- ❖ Cultural Folders and objects of all the Continents
- ❖ Temperate climatic zones of the World
- ❖ Telling Time/Calendar/Birthday
- ❖ Solar System



Science and Botany: *Exploration of the natural environment*

- ❖ Parts of a Plant and plant care
- ❖ Germination
- ❖ Seasons
- ❖ Zoology: a study of animals, mammals, insects, reptiles, insects, and ocean life
- ❖ Magnification
- ❖ Sink and Float, Living and non-living, classifications
- ❖ Science experiments
- ❖ Life Cycles

Arts: *Development of fine motor and creativity skills*

- ❖ Cutting work: varied lines and difficulty
- ❖ Patterns, colors, pin punching, gluing
- ❖ Modeling and sculpting
- ❖ Painting: watercolors and tempera painting
- ❖ Color Mixing, tinting, and shading
- ❖ Study of Artists and art appreciation

Music: *Appreciation of music culture and styles*

- ❖ The Orchestra: the study of the full spectrum of instruments
- ❖ Rhythm Sticks and varied musical instruments
- ❖ Varied music styles and composers
- ❖ Finger play and rhythm activities
- ❖ The Montessori Silence Game
- ❖ Music and movement games
- ❖ CGS music and religious catholic liturgical songs