

Little Cube Montessori Preschool & Kindergarten

Curriculum Overview

Young children take in a tremendous amount of information from their environment with what Maria Montessori called "the absorbent mind."

Our Little Cube Montessori preschool and kindergarten program provides an enriching hands-on learning experience with specially formulated Montessori materials for math, language, sensorial exploration, practical life activities, art, science and geography. Making choices and using coordinated movements to accomplish tasks leads the child toward self-regulation and self-control. Children develop observation and problem-solving skills. By manipulating, experimenting and discovering, children begin to move from the concrete to the abstract as they prepare for the more complex studies of the elementary program.

Practical Life

The Practical Life is the cornerstone of the Montessori method. It's goals span the three-year age cycle, providing practical experience in everyday activities. These activities not only teach physical skills, but also prepare the children for work in mathematics, language, and socialization. The necessity of making choices and using coordinated movements to accomplish a task leads the child toward self-regulation and independence.

The ultimate lesson, however, is concentration-without it, nothing else is possible.

Students learn all these tasks through:

*Physical Skills, *Respect and care of environment, *Grace, courtesy and etiquette, *Independence, and *Community Service

Sensorial

The Sensorial Curriculum is the key to knowledge in the Montessori classroom. It builds on the foundation of the Practical Life Curriculum and prepares the way for children to progress into academic work through development of observation and problem-solving skills. The sensorial materials are designed to develop and refine skills that help young children learn how to think, reason, make distinctions, make judgements and decisions, observe, compare, and better appreciate their world. This is the beginning of conscious knowledge.

Students learn to distinguish and differentiate physical properties through:

Auditory learning

Visual learning

Tactile learning

Language

Children are learning language long before entering the Montessori classroom. By using their senses as tools, children absorb information about their language. During the first two years of Little Cube Montessori, students prepare themselves for language study by working in the practical life and sensorial areas with materials that refine auditory, oral, visual and sensory/motor skills which are necessary for writing and reading in the third year. Language spans every other area as an integrated source of preparation for a well-planned approach to further learning.

-Auditory preparation

- Conversational speech • Identifying and discriminating sounds
- Storytelling • Sequencing • Repetition • Poetry • Rhymes and finger plays
- Listening skills and comprehension

-Visual preparation

- Recognizing patterns • Matching and sorting • Phonics

-Motor preparation

- Eye-to-hand coordination • Strengthening of the hand

Math

The aim of the math curriculum at the Little Cube Montessori's level is to help students develop their thought processes, not to simply teach math facts at an early age. With hands-on materials, students begin to understand the concrete through manipulation, experimentation and invention, which prepares them for abstract study at the elementary level.

Numbers 0-10

Goals: Establish numbers one to ten. Understand quantity and sequence of numbers using manipulatives. Establish recognition of numerical symbols. Learn relationship of quantity to symbol.

Decimal System

Goals: Understand the concept of base ten. Learn composition of numbers, including place value and equivalencies.

Numbers 11-99

Goals: Ability to recognize teens and tens.

Operations

Goal: Provide a concrete introduction to the four basic arithmetic operations. Moves into abstract work with operations.

Science

Maria Montessori had a unique way of defining cultural studies—she incorporated the specific areas of history, geography, physical sciences, botany and zoology into the studies within this area. These components support Montessori's strong belief in the need for global education. Exploration and inquiry are encouraged by fostering and nurturing the young child's curiosity.

Life Science (Botany-plant care, Zoology-animal)

Physical Science (• Magnetism, Sink and float)

Earth Science (Weather/seasons)

Geography

- Globe
- Maps and continents
- Land and water forms, Planets