

STEM and the Montessori Method

SYNERGY 2018

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What is a Montessori education?

The Montessori method of teaching focuses on the holistic development of the child, preparing them for numerous rich experiences in life starting from kindergarten. Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952) developed the Montessori philosophy based upon actual observations of children. Dr. Montessori believed that the child's mind between the time of birth and six years of age is the most sensitive; therefore, it can absorb an incredible amount of information and it is known as the "absorbent mind".

Working with disabled adults and children, Maria developed a theory...

The child is not taught, but learns to learn!

The function of the teacher is to provide educational material and then act as an advisor or guide, staying as much in the background as possible.

The goals of a Montessori education is to cultivate each child's natural desire to:

- Learn and master skills
- Become responsible and cooperate
- Foster a high self-esteem
- Develop social skills and emotional growth
- Learn physical coordination and cognitive preparation



The role of a Montessori teacher:

Recognize and take advantage of this perceptive stage through the introduction of material and activities that are designed to stimulate and engage the absorbent mind. Montessori teachers guide the child without interfering with the child's natural desire to teach themselves and become independent. Montessori provides an edge compared to traditional childcare and school age options.

Who? Anybody ever?!?



Prince Harry and Prince William

Montessori Graduates

- Montessori students are great leaders and team players, making positive contributions to their community.
- Montessori students are often exceptionally compassionate, empathetic and sensitive to the natural world and the human condition.
- On an academic level, Montessori provides students with skills that allow them to become lifelong learners.

**We will change the way the world
accesses information.**

Larry Page and Sergey Brin

Founders of google.com

Montessori Graduates





Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Former First Lady Montessori Graduate

She is remembered for her lifelong contributions to the arts and preservation of historic architecture, as well as for her style, elegance, and grace. She was a fashion icon, and her famous ensemble of pink Chanel suit and matching pillbox hat has become a symbol of her husband's assassination. She ranks as one of the most popular First Ladies.

Jeff Bezos

Founder of Amazon.com

Montessori Graduate

Pioneer the
internet shopping
industry!



Julia Child
Best selling author and chef
Montessori Graduate



American chef, author and television personality. She is recognized for bringing French cuisine to the American public with her debut cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, and her subsequent television programs, the most notable of which was *The French Chef*, which premiered in 1963.

How?

The current STEM movement is calling for innovation, collaboration, and hands-on learning and problem solving. To the Montessori community, this is nothing new. This is what we've been doing all along!

This is basically an early approach to STEM/STEAM!

Materials

Games that
teach

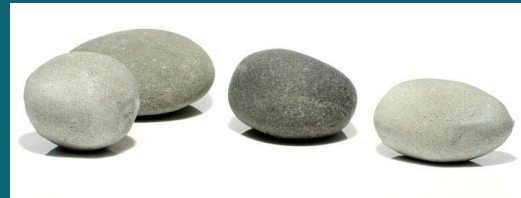
Thrift store
finds!



Not Expensive



Gathered materials
from a walk!



**I believe that children learn best in
schools that treat them with
kindness, honor, and respect!**

**Montessori students normally follow internalized ground
rules, whether or not people in authority are watching!**

Doing the right thing on purpose!

Some ideas



Montessori students respect the creative process of others and are willing to exchange ideas, information, and talents. A Montessori child tends to be quite aware of how their words and actions impact the welfare of others.



**Children who go through Montessori
tend to develop a strong desire to
engage in educational activities for
enjoyment and satisfaction.**

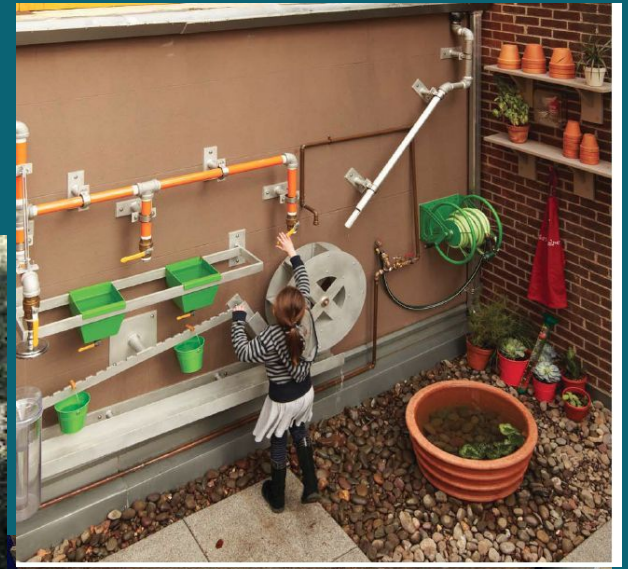


Outdoor Classroom

Any outdoor space can be used.

Students will learn and retain more outside.

Any subject can be taught outside!



How to fund and build an outdoor classroom

GO BIG: Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart

Invite these people to see your space.

GO LOCAL: Local craftsmen and organizations, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Garden or Book Clubs!

Let everyone see the good you are doing for the community, schools, and families!



**Start with Montessori
Finish with STEM**

How can I help? Questions? Just ask!

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Patience is not
the ability to wait,
but the ability to
keep a good
attitude while
waiting.