

PREPARED FOR LIFE!

**MONTESSORI
PREPARED FOR LIFE!**



THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF
MONTESSORI ADMINISTRATORS

LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES
ADMINISTRATEURS DES ÉCOLES MONTESSORI

WHAT IS MONTESSORI?



Montessori is an individualized approach to education for children from toddler through high school that helps each child reach full potential in all areas of life. It is a student-centered approach that encourages creativity and curiosity and leads children to ask questions, explore, investigate and think for themselves as they acquire skills.

Prepared for Life

Developed by Dr. Maria Montessori over one hundred years ago, a Montessori education nurtures self-directed learning with activities that promote the development of social skills, emotional growth, and physical coordination as well as the acquisition of knowledge. The highly integrated curriculum allows students to develop self-discipline, respect for themselves, others and the world around them. Children experience the joy of learning, time to enjoy the process and the self-esteem that accompanies independent learning.

Learning is a Life Skill

A Montessori environment focuses more on a student's learning than on a teacher's teaching. Specially trained Montessori teachers guide, coach and facilitate each child's learning through continuous observation and assessment.

The Montessori class community has mixed ages; 3-6, 6-9, 9-12 and 12-15 years. The multi-age grouping in each class provides a family-like setting where learning can take place naturally. The dynamic of mixed ages recognizes learning as a social process and provides opportunities for older children to mentor the younger ones. Through their interaction, students learn the importance of co-operation, respect, collaboration not competition, while mentoring a classmate reinforces their learning.

In Montessori classrooms, children are learning skills to care for themselves, their environment and their community. There are activities that develop spoken and written language, reading, mathematics and the natural sciences. Music, art, storytelling, movement and drama are part of every Montessori program and creativity flourishes in an atmosphere of acceptance and trust.



Selecting a Montessori School

Since Montessori is not a protected name and cannot be patented, it's important for parents to know which schools uphold the highest standards of excellence for Montessori education. The Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators was formed thirty years ago to set standards of excellence and accredit authentic Montessori schools that uphold these standards. There are two membership categories: 1. Applicant Member - those schools who have joined and have made the commitment to go through Accreditation within a set period of time. 2. Accredited Members - those schools who have completed the Accreditation process. The Accreditation process is rigorous and only those schools that successfully complete

MONTESSORI NURTURES A LIFE-LONG LOVE OF LEARNING THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF:

Independence • Concentration • Self-motivation
Self-discipline • Social skills • Higher level thinking skills

WHY PARENTS CHOOSE MONTESSORI

We ask parents why they choose a Montessori education and increasingly they cite their desire to prepare their children to live successfully in the world that will be their future. They've looked at the research showing the benefits of a Montessori education and many observe classroom activities where they see how an active role in one's own learning results in a high level of academic development, social awareness and character development. Parents understand that in a constantly changing and complex world, knowing how to learn and how to integrate learning in one's life are essential life skills. Parents also want their children in an environment where each child is valued and respected as an individual and for what the child can offer.

Freedom and Responsibility

Montessori education balances freedom and responsibility. The approach is scientifically grounded in the stages of development. Parents are able to see how it encourages intrinsic motivation and a high interest in learning. Parents who make classroom visits often comment that their child is energized to learn, experiences a sense of well-being and works with focus and concentration.

Community and Teamwork

Visiting a Montessori classroom, parents see their child active and valued as part of the class and school community. They see their child engaged in meaningful conversations with classmates and adults and developing social and teamwork capabilities, while at the same time learning independence and self-direction.

Future Success

Current research confirms the benefits of a Montessori education which provides essential skills for future life and success. Outcomes of a Montessori education provide a strong base for children to respect others, develop solid academic skills, make connections and apply their knowledge, find work that is intrinsically satisfying and be engaged as global citizens. Such notables as Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Wikipedia founders Jimmy Wales and Jeff Bezos of Amazon, credit their Montessori education for much of their success.

the evaluation process are recognized as Accredited members of CCMA. Professional credentials, which the trained teacher holds from an Accredited Teacher Training Centre, are included in the standards.

CCMA sets Accreditation as a way to help schools be accountable to each other, parents and the larger community. For parents, CCMA provides information and education to help them make good choices and to help parents support their children in Montessori schools. If you are considering Montessori education for your children, a list of Applicant and Accredited schools on the CCMA website at ccma.ca will be helpful.





A guide to choosing the **right** Montessori School for your child

Montessori schools are based on the philosophy that a child learns best within a social environment that supports each individual's unique development.

The family is considered an integral part of the individual's total development and Montessori schools are eager to partner with parents to prepare children for life. The following steps are offered as a guide to finding the right Montessori school for your child.

1 Step One

Familiarize yourself with the Montessori philosophy. Information is available from the Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators online at **ccma.ca** and on a number of other Internet sites including individual school websites.

2 Step Two

When looking at an individual school consider the following:

- Location
- Licensing, accreditations and affiliations
- Size of the school
- History of the school
- Programmes Offered: Preschool, JK and SK (ages 3-6), Grades 1-6 (ages 6-12) and in some cases Grades 7,8 and high school.
- Tuition fees
- Type of ownership

3 Step Three

Arrange to visit the school while the children are in session. Every Montessori school has its own culture and focus and will thus have a unique atmosphere.

Education is not something the teacher does, it is a process which develops spontaneously in the child.



4 Step Four

Observe the classrooms.

- Are there three ages in each class, 3-6 years, 6-9 years, 9-12 years and 15-18 years?
- Is there a 2-3 hour uninterrupted work period in the Montessori environment?
- Is there a diverse set of Montessori materials that are in good repair, clean and accessible?

5 Step Five

Observe the children in their classroom

- Is there a variety of activities available?
- Do the children work independently and are they engaged in meaningful activities?
- Is there evidence of children interacting with each other?
- Is there an atmosphere of enjoyment?

6 Step Six

Observe the staff

- Is there an atmosphere of respect when interacting with the children?
- Is staff approachable and responsive to the children?

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the human being.*

MARIA MONTESSORI 1870 - 1952



CCMA Promoting Excellence in the Montessori Community

CCMA is a national, not-for-profit organization founded in 1977 to promote the highest standards of authentic Montessori education in Canada to help children reach their full potential.

While professional development is a key focus of the organization, CCMA also aims to enhance the understanding of Montessori education through workshops, speaking engagements, articles, periodicals and research updates. The organization is a credible resource for administrators, teachers, parents and policy makers and provides a unified voice for Montessori education in Canada to deal with provincial agencies, parents, media and the general public.

Accreditation

Helping to Make Good Montessori Schools Better

School Accreditation helps to establish consistency of standards and the preservation of the Montessori education philosophy. Schools are evaluated through a compilation of school policies and documents, detailed self-evaluation questionnaires and an on-site visit by trained consultants. Schools that successfully complete the evaluation processes are recognized as Accredited members of CCMA. A full list, by region, is available on ccma.ca

Accredited Teacher Training Centres provide appropriate and tailored teacher training for every level of Montessori education from toddlers through high school. These professional credentials are part of CCMA standards. You can find Teacher Training Centres and career opportunities across Canada listed on the CCMA website.

AN INVITATION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MONTESSORI EDUCATION

The Internet provides a wealth of information about Montessori education. You'll find these sites particularly helpful.

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| Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators for General Information and direct link to school sites | ccma.ca |
| Association Montessori Internationale | montessori-ami.org |
| North American Montessori Teachers Association | montessori-namta.org |
| The American Montessori Society | amshq.org |
| International Montessori Council | montessori.org |

Recommended Reading

Montessori Madness by Trevor Eissler

Montessori Today by Paula Polk Lillard

Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius by Angeline Stoll Lillard

Understanding the Human Being: The Importance of the First Three Years of Life by Silvana Q. Montanaro, MD

If you are interested in Montessori Education, please arrange to visit an Applicant or Accredited Montessori school in your area.

To Contact CCMA

Call **1-800-954-6300** or **416-239-1166**

Or email: ccma@bellnet.ca



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