



WELCOME TO

The Montessori School Academy

**THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL
MAKEOVER**

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AN ONLINE PROGRAM

Resource Book 7- The Montessori School

Notice

THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL ACADEMY

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Modules

THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL ACADEMY

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The Montessori School

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An overview- The Montessori School has in many ways a completely different out view and mission compared to a traditional establishment

Worthy of note

♥ THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE THE MISSION OF CREATING THE BEST LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN.

The Lesson Objectives

The Characteristics of a Montessori School

The Benefits of a Montessori Education

How to Manage a Montessori School

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The Characteristics of a Montessori School

There are so many schools all over the world claiming to be a Montessori school, as there are no regulating bodies monitoring the use of the name "Montessori" you find that not all Montessori schools are the same.

It becomes very difficult for a parent to know how and what a Montessori school is actually supposed to be as there are many misconceptions of what actually makes a school Montessori. It is important to research and observe the schools you are considering before making a choice. Here are some international standards expected of a Montessori School.

A. Use of Montessori materials producing active learning. We believe that the child learns by moving, touching and exploring the world around them. This is why didactic materials that have been designed to educate the child are used in the Montessori environment. The child is therefore taught from the concrete to abstract. This hands-on approach enables isolation of specific concepts and allows the child to learn with much deeper understanding. It is not usual for a Montessori student in the pre-school and early nursery stages to learn from text-books.

B. Freedom with limits. Children in a good Montessori school enjoy

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♥ NOTES CONTINUED

considerable freedom in actual fact the child is allowed to move about freely and choose the material they wish to work with. The teacher observes the child and introduces work to develop the child's interest, and draws interest to more challenging concepts to further the child's understanding. The child is free to move around, choose their work as long as they do not interfere with the rights of others. There is a firmly defined ground work of school community rules that the child learns to respect and follow. This instills respect for others, property as well as discipline.

C. The Montessori 'prepared environment' – The Classroom is designed in such a way to meet the needs of the child and not the teacher teaching. It is the interest, the ability and development of each child in the class that matters. The usual thing is for a child to remain in the same classroom, with the same teacher for a period of 3 years. This helps to build a strong community sense with a class of multi-aged children who learn from one another and from a young age learn to work together as a team. Teaching is rarely done in whole class lessons, children tend to work together in small, self selected groups or individually. Children in Montessori schools learn at their own pace and move on when they are ready.

D. Rewards, are these a help or hindrance? Children learn primarily because they want to become competent and independent human beings. Rewarding a child for learning or doing great may

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♥ NOTES CONTINUED

their innate need to become an independent person, can make them dependent on others for approval on issues of self image or for even life choice issues which is even worse. Montessori children are groomed to become self assured, independent with a strong sense of individual personality.

E. Co-operation and not needless competition is more the core objective of the Montessori school. Thus testing and examinations are not really a Montessori regular activity. The children are encouraged to treat each other with kindness and respect. Children have a great understanding and respect for each other as competition is not an issue.

F. Universal values. The goal of a good Montessori school is to promote world peace through educating the child to respect life. The curriculum is international in its focus and details. The Montessori child is taught to seek world peace respect life and all human beings. The child is taught from an early stage about the diversity of the human race, to respect and celebrate it. This will be an important tool to help kill tribalism in the country.

G. Montessori trained teachers. The teachers in these schools are trained by accredited institutions or by other teachers trained by accredited members and therefore are qualified to work with children in one of the following age groups 0-3, 3-6, 6-9, 9-12.

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♥ NOTES CONTINUED

The Primary Goals of a Montessori Education

The true benefits of a Montessori education happen within the child. The primary skills we normally key into such as reading, writing, and using numbers are all byproducts of the strong brain development and positive, confident self-image that a Montessori education helps the child achieve. Therefore your child's ability to read, write and do mathematics is a visible result of the internal brain and personality development that a Montessori education provides.

We work mainly to activate brain nerve pathways and build strong brain architecture in the child. This gives the child body-mind integration, as he explores and understands his environment, producing positive self-image and a love for learning. The end result of this is that the child learns to focus attention, solve problems, think critically, control and coordinate his body, develop logic and memory skills.

These skills are worth more than your child memorizing and writing alphabets and numerals at age 1 ½ to 2 ½ years!

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How to Manage a Montessori School

The Montessori School is still an institution where learning takes place and needs to be managed according to the best practices in the industry.

Having said this it is also important to note that there are several differentiating factors that make the Montessori School a bit different.

Your budget must always take into consideration the cost of the Montessori Materials and Staff training. Staff salaries should also not be low.

You get what you pay for.

A start up school may not be able to pay huge salaries, so strong motivational leadership is needed to keep the school running smoothly.

Keep your eye on staff retention, as much as possible grow a team of teachers who will stay 3 years before they move on. if they have to. It may be difficult but this must be the goal.

Montessori Schools are usually open, the school welcomes Parents into the school to watch children in action. It never ceases to amaze me how parents are sometimes shocked at what their child can do!

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A lot of schools understand that working with parents is essential, Montessori schools have to take this on board. It is one of the corner stones of the school. Build a vibrant community of teachers, parents and children. Your parents must understand what you are doing, support your efforts at home, in fact you are working hand in hand to see the children develop and grow into the person they will become in future.

Keep an eye out on standards and ensure that the staff are not drowning in Montessori protocol, and loosing the essence of inspiring and guiding the child in learning. Constant training helps. Both in house and out.

Stick to your guns. The 3 to 6 Montessori program cannot work properly if you squeeze it into 2 years because of Parent pressure. I suggest to work on your school policy and hand this over to each enrolling parent. You will find less opposition to your policies if they know exactly what you do and what you will not accept.

Engage the children with the outdoors as much as possible, be concerned with the total growth of the children in your care.

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THE END

Assignment 8

Make a list of facts that make a Montessori school stand out as different from the school next door.