

# *Montessori Primary Philosophy 1*

# ESSORI ARY

Cosmic Education



*Addla Montessori*

# Montessori Primary

## Philosophy 1

## Cosmic Education

# What is Cosmic Education?

This is the core and heart of what Montessori Primary is all about. The child we now understand has moved on from being a sensorial learner to being a reasoning being? They want to know why and how things are the way they are. They are ready to work with big numbers and ideas, even more, they are ready to start taking on abstractions.

Cosmic Education is how we meet this need and change in the 6 to 12 year old.

Maria Montessori understood that the provisions made for the 3 to 6 year old in the Children's House would not meet the needs of the 6 to 12 year old child. The teaching method, environment and the content had to change.

Cosmic Education is an umbrella term that encompasses the interrelatedness of all things. It is the study of the universe, how everything came to be. In it we learn about creation, evolution, the coming of life on earth, the evolution of plants and animals and the coming of humans, we look at the fundamental needs of living things and then of man and his tendencies, and then dig deeper we look at his accomplishments and how we have evolved from Cave Man to the Technical Age giants that now rule the earth!

All the above would really take us through so many subjects if you think about it: History, Geography, Sciences including Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Art, Mathematics, Engineering, Computing, Food Technology and so on. The topics the child could be involved in can be so huge!



## Why Cosmic Education?

Cosmic Education helps the child see the whole wide world. They are ready for the big ideas. They need to use their imagination and the way we do Cosmic Education feeds into this need and uses it to help ignite and interest and curiosity to learn.

They want to know their world. We give them the world and allow the child to research and find out more.

Children are interested in the world and in growing socially at this point in their life. Giving them the world enables them to see that we all have a mission on earth. If you do your job well they will start asking the question. What can I do to contribute to life? We will cover this in the Great Lessons and beyond.

# How do we teach Cosmic Education?

We teach Cosmic Education through storytelling. You are a story teller. We use the big Cosmic Lessons known popularly as the Great Lessons, there are five main stories and then there are some others. You will have to really work on storytelling.

They have an imagination, a developing mind and we use these elements to give them a glimpse of how great our world and life is on earth.

After telling each story we then hold discussions and each child chooses one aspect or topic of interest to study and do a report on.



# What Materials do we use to teach Cosmic Education?

We use charts, impressionistic charts that feeds well then child's use of imagination at this age, lots of books as references for research nomenclature cards and also timelines.



# What is the difference between this method and the traditional?

Traditionally everything is isolated, History is separate from Geography and Mathematics is separate from Language, we have different times to learn each topic and subject.

In the Montessori Primary setting we give our children the soup (the story) all at once. The children should be amazed and excited by your soup and then be ready to go out and find out more about something that caught their fancy.

Wait until we start the Great Lessons you will understand why I call it **the soup**!

# What are the benefits of Cosmic Education?

Cosmic Education ensures that the child has a true understanding of the universe, their country and community and how it all works.

Cosmic Education also enables the child to develop a sense of appreciation and gratitude. They can start considering what mankind has gone through to get to where they are today and what they in turn can do.

So Cosmic Education and the way it is taught in the Montessori setting helps each child to start their journey of self-discovery: What can I contribute to the world?

For our 6 to 12 year old we are able to fulfil our duty as a custodian of culture by teaching them about culture. The child studies culture and finds their place, while getting that spark of inspiration maybe, of how they also can help to advance culture in their generation.

Check out your schools mission and vision, you will find that the way to reach all those lofty goals we want to inculcate in our children can be achieved through Cosmic Education. It is done in such a natural and exciting way.

Cosmic Education makes school exciting. We have one or two more lessons to go and then we will dig in deep into all this yummy **soup** stuff... the storytelling and the Great Lessons.