

“One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child.”

~ Maria Montessori

“HANDS-ON”!

When you visit a Montessori environment your eyes feast on amazing materials – colors, shapes, textures. Is this material really for my three year old or four year old - isosceles triangles, quatrefoils, reniform leaf shapes, bead chains, cubes and tactile letters? Does he really touch it and feel it and use it? Sometimes when there is no paper trail coming home, you wonder!



MONTESSORI
CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Socrates said, **“There is nothing in the mind that is not first in the hands.”** It is the touching of these concrete materials that begins the building of the mental processes in your child. Montessori education begins with the concrete. Daily practice in the classroom refining the senses using specially designed materials, allows your child to build a concrete foundation of knowledge one step at a time until he is ready to make the great intellectual leap into the abstract. When the child makes the “leap” depends on each child’s own developmental timetable. Your child is building a very concrete foundation for all further intellectual development one achievement at a time. In the elementary classroom, this same emphasis on hands-on learning with concrete materials continues. The concepts become increasingly more complex, e.g. advanced mathematical operations, geometrical and algebraic rules, chemistry and physics experiments, etc.

There is more paperwork to record what is being learned and to help solidify understanding. But students still begin with lessons using hands-on materials! Traditional education begins with intellectual development hoping to make the abstract concrete. In Montessori it is the other way around – we start with the concrete hoping to achieve true intellectual advancement.

Every day your child is absorbing the whole world around him trying to make sense of it, trying to master the parts he can. And it is in his Montessori classroom that this world is made tangible and accessible.



January '10



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Happy B-Day Martha
3	4	5 Happy B-Day Max	6	7	8	9
10 Happy B-Day Elizabeth	11	12 Happy B-Day Grace & Reilly	13	14	15 Staff Work Day No School	16
17 Happy B-Day Cheyenne	18 Martin Luther King Day No School	19	20	21	22 Elementary Library Trip	23
25	25	26 Elementary Field Trip Challenger Space Center	27	28	29	30
31		9:30 - 12:00				