

# Montessori Curriculum

Pre-K (Ages 3 to 4)

2022-23



# What is the Montessori Approach to Education?

The Montessori approach is a holistic, self-paced and experiential method of learning that allows children to learn through understanding rather than through being told. As a result, your child will develop confidence and a joy for learning.

By understanding how children learn, Montessori teachers are able to provide your child with tools and opportunities tailored to the way they experience the world around them. At the same time, there is a strong physical dimension to many Montessori activities, encouraging dexterity, balance and appreciation of shapes, colors and sizes.



**Learning the Montessori way is, literally, learning for life.**

What all these elements have in common is that they are providing the building blocks of future learning, hardwiring your child's capacity to engage with new material and information, and providing the tools with which to manipulate it.

## So what is so special about the Montessori Classroom?

There are 4 main elements that distinguish it from other classrooms:

**1**

### Equipment

All equipment is accessible to your child and is always available to the child.

**2**

### Freedom

Your child has freedom of movement both indoors and outdoors, as well as a choice of what to do for much of the day.

**3**

### Responsibility

Your child will have personal responsibility for their work. This requires an awareness of the needs of others, avoiding dangerous or hurtful actions, keeping the equipment and resources tidy, putting things away after using them, being good role models for younger children, and developing a true social awareness.

**4**

### Beauty & Harmony

The environment must be aesthetically pleasing and calm to encourage learning and concentration.



● Children 3 – 4 Years

# Pre-K Curriculum

**1** Practical Life

**2** Senses

**3** Math

**4** Language

**5** Science

**6** Geography

**7** Art

# Practical Life Curriculum

Practical Life activities are the activities of everyday life and they are involved in all aspects of life. The child observes these activities in the environment and gains knowledge through the real experience of how to accomplish life skills in a purposeful way. These activities are cultural and specific to the child's time and place.

Practical Life activities help give the child a sense of being and belonging, established through participation in daily life with us. Through practical life the child learns about his culture and all about what it is to be human.



Practical Life exercises help children to become self-confident, independent and prepare them for other aspects of learning.

## Four Areas of Practical Life

### Fine Motor Skills

- Rolling/unrolling a rug
- Clamping clothespins
- Dry & wet pouring
- Spooning objects from one bowl to another
- Using a strainer, dropper, grater, and whisk
- Using tools such as hammers & screwdrivers
- Lifting & carrying a chair
- Dry transfer using tongs
- Squeezing a wet sponge
- Opening & closing jars & boxes
- Threading & lacing

### Care of Self

- Use of tissue
- Buttoning, zipping & tying laces
- Brushing hair
- Putting on an apron
- Walking on a line
- Hand washing & drying
- Use of bathroom
- Coat - putting on, taking off, hanging up
- Folding & unfolding napkins
- Pairing gloves & socks
- Polishing shoes

### Care of Environment

- Dusting shelves & materials
- Crumbing
- Sweeping floor
- Washing a mirror
- Watering plants in the classroom
- Opening & closing tap water to fill pitcher
- Use of glue
- Apple cutting & slicing
- Arranging flowers
- Cleaning & scrubbing tables

### Grace & Courtesy

- Making eye contact
- Greeting "hello" & handshake
- Apologizing
- Asking for help
- Excusing oneself
- Interrupting
- Handing sharp objects
- Offering a snack
- Watching/observing a friend
- Walking around a rug
- Speaking softly
- Individual & group snacking

## 2 Sensorial Curriculum

Dr. Montessori believed that nothing comes into the mind except through the senses. During the years between three and six, as children develop their senses, their attention is directed toward the environment. The purpose of the Sensorial activities is to help your child in his or her efforts to sort out the many varied impressions given by the senses.

Sensorial materials are specifically designed to help your child develop discrimination, order, and to broaden and refine his or her senses. These materials also help prepare children to be logical, aware, and perceptive people.

Sensorial materials are designed with built-in feedback to control errors and show when mistakes have been made. The child as a result remains independent of oversight and develops an inner, personal incentive to practice and improve. After experiencing Sensorial activities, your child's sense perceptions will appear inherently structured and capable of comprehending abstract concepts.

### Five Areas of Sensorial Development



#### Visual Discrimination

Develops the understanding that difference in dimension, width, length, and size can be found in these materials:

- Pink Tower
- Brown Stair
- Red Rods
- Knobbed Cylinders
- Knobless Cylinders
- Color Tablets Box 1,2,3
- Binomial Cube
- 1st Geometrical Cabinet
- Triangular Box
- Small Hexagon Box



#### Tactile Sense

- Touch Boards
- Touch tablets
- Fabric – textures
- Mystery bag



#### Auditory Sense

- Sound cylinders
- Bells



#### Olfactory Sense

- Smelling bottles



#### Gustatory Sense

- Tasting trays

# 3 Math Curriculum

Learning mathematical concepts in a Montessori classroom begins concretely and progresses towards the abstract. Concepts are developed from simple to complex. Process is taught first and facts come later. Through the math materials, your child will experience order, coordination, concentration, and independence.

The activities in the math area are not implemented at a set pace. Providing the child with the materials at precisely the right challenge level will enable your child to demonstrate his or her development to the teacher through his or her progress. A child that is able to grasp math concepts such as addition and subtraction demonstrates the successful use of the math materials. The materials are so beautifully designed and appropriate for each child during his sensitive periods of learning math. Mathematical apparatus provides the necessary stimulation for the child to learn math concepts more readily.



Children display a universal love of mathematics, which is par excellence the science of precision, order, and intelligence. – Dr. Maria Montessori

## Three Groups of Math Activities

### Linear Counting Lesson Plans

Quantity is presented using the teen and ten boards followed by symbol and association. The one-hundred board and bead chains develop number concepts and recognition of the numbers one through one-hundred. The bead chains also introduce the child to skip counting; five, ten, fifteen, twenty, etc.

- Teen board

### Addition and Subtraction

These operations are done using the golden bead material. Children work with each other and benefit from these exercises using the bank game. Progression then continues using operations with the stamp game.

- Addition with Red & Blue rods
- Addition Strip Board

### 0-10 Lesson Plans

This group introduces sets of one through ten, which prepares the child for counting and teaches the value of quantity. Your child will begin to associate numerals and quantities with number rods and number cards. Your child will gain a growing understanding of sequence.

- Sandpaper numbers
- Number rods
- Spindle boxes
- Memory game
- Short Bead Stair
- Counter and cards
- Other 1-10 counting activities the teacher adds which reinforces the 1-10 numeral concepts.

# 4 Language Curriculum

Learning language is a natural extension of the patterns of communication that have already been absorbed. Through every conversation, every book read aloud, every new word that is taught, the Montessori student is learning language, and thus, learning to read. In addition, writing is seen as a direct preparation for reading.

The Montessori classroom emphasizes spoken language as the foundation for all linguistic expression. Throughout the entire school day, your child hears and uses precise vocabulary for all the activities. Your child is encouraged to converse with peers and staff.

Reading is taught phonetically as the child is ready. The concrete materials, from the sandpaper letters to the beginning of sentence analysis, allow the child to take small, logical, sequential steps to independent, fluent reading. Language learning leads into cultural subjects, thereby extending your child's vocabulary and working with your child's fascination with his or her environment.

## Scope & Sequence of the Language Program

1

### Preliminary Language

- Enrichment of Vocabulary
- Language Training
- Sound Games

2

### Introduction to Writing

- Sandpaper Letters
- Moveable Alphabet
- The Metal Insets (10 Presentations)
- Handwriting

3

### Introduction to Reading

- Phonetic Object Box
- Phonetic Reading Cards
- Word Study

# 5 Science Curriculum

The Montessori science curriculum seeks to cultivate children's natural curiosity and to allow them to discover the answers to their "why" questions. Science study concentrates on process; specifically, the scientific process of question, hypothesis, procedure, observation, data analysis and conclusion.

The use of this process paves the way for children to think about something that is easily translatable outside the science arena. It teaches them to think before deciding, to use a logical method of discovery or testing, and to use data to evaluate results and arrive at a thoughtful conclusion.

Along with process, the science curriculum aims to provide your child with a basic knowledge of: zoology, botany, matter, energy, earth science, astronomy, human development and personal health.

Firsthand experience with the natural world and with scientific materials and apparatus is a guiding principle. As with other Montessori pursuits, observing and doing are methods of learning, and safety at all times is emphasized. As always, the children use real scientific materials and learn the proper nomenclature for such things as animal classification, chemical processes, earth forces, botanical components and rock types.

Finally, the Montessori curriculum aims to fill a child with wonder at the complexity and grandeur of the universe, the simplicity of physical laws and the miracle of life in all of its forms. It encourages respect for the world that we have been given and an understanding of our place in the natural order of things. The ultimate goal is the development of an ecological view of life and a feeling of responsibility for the earth.

## Science Topics

- Living & Nonliving Things
- Plants & Animals
- Vertebrates & Invertebrates
- Parts of the Body
- Body Systems
  - Brain, Heart, etc.
- Animal Classifications
  - Sea Animals
  - Birds
  - Insects
  - Zoo Animals
  - Farm Animals
- Life Cycles
- Magnetism
- Solids & Liquids
- Buoyancy
- Herbivore, Carnivore, Omnivore



**Science isn't the thing being studied but the way it is being studied.** – Albert Einstein



# 6 Geography Curriculum

Through sensory experience and the use of imaginative stories, children in the Montessori environment learn about their physical world. They can touch a sphere and compare the shape to the globe. They build landforms using play dough and fill water forms with water. Montessori puzzle maps are meant to be taken apart and put back together again as children develop an understanding of continents and oceans. These Montessori hands-on activities build long-term memory by physically engaging the hand.

Discoveries are made about the people who live on different continents. Montessori students learn about food, music, clothing, traditions, holidays, customs, housing, as well as the plants and animals of the region as they compare their lifestyles to others. They learn about the flags of the world and reverently carry them as they “walk the line” in the Montessori-prepared environment. They learn to appreciate the wonder found in the similarities and differences around the world.

## Key Geography Topics

1 Land, Air, and Water

2 The Four Seasons

3 Layers of the Earth

4 The Globe

5 The World Map

6 Continent Maps and Landmarks

7 Countries and Flags

8 Cultures

9 United States Map, Presidents, Landmarks

10 Land Forms

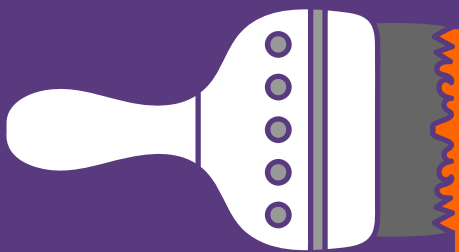
11 The Solar System

# 7 Art Curriculum

Our Art Curriculum builds on the foundation provided in the Practical Life curriculum. Your child will display reasonable control of movement, fine motor skills and eye/hand coordination, having been encouraged to express themselves in artistic ways. Art instruction seeks to strike a balance between skill instruction and free exploration, and to encourage a child's natural desire for self-expression. It also seeks to build a child's art vocabulary; awareness of artists and their techniques, as well as knowledge of the various forms of art expression, from architecture to painting to sculpture to computer graphics.

Through artistic adventures, your child will also become aware of and develop a respect for the contributions of the arts and artists to societies and cultures, past and present. Your child will gain a lasting appreciation of art from the dual vantage points of participant and audience. Children also gain insight into the way that art is a non-verbal method of expressing opinions, perceptions, feeling and history. Finally, they begin to realize the connections between art and their daily lives in areas such as math, nature, cooking and sports. Inclusive Montessori encourages every child to "find and nourish the artist within him/herself."

## Learning Through Art



- Self-Expression
- Skill Development
- Free Exploration
- Vocabulary
- Artists
- Art Techniques
- Art Contributions to Culture & Civilizations
- Non-Verbal Expression
- Connection to Daily Life

# Enroll Your Child At Mishkah Montessori Academy!


We are excited to welcome all new parents and their children to Mishkah!

Our doors are open to everyone! Drop by and say hello, or schedule a tour through our website. Either way, come visit! We'd love to meet you and your little one!

For all inquiries, send us an email or call us! We're happy to chat with you and answer all your questions.

**ENROLL TODAY!**

 [MishkahAcademy.org/Application](https://MishkahAcademy.org/Application)

 (919) 228-9773

 [admin@MishkahAcademy.org](mailto:admin@MishkahAcademy.org)

 101 Preston Executive Drive  
Cary, North Carolina

 @Mishkah.Montessori

 @MishkahAcademy.org

