



The Montessori method of education is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations. It is a view of the child as one who is naturally eager for knowledge and capable of initiating learning in a supportive, thoughtfully prepared learning environment. It is an approach that values the human spirit and development of the whole child. The Montessori method contains five basic principles.

RESPECT FOR THE CHILD – Respect for the child is the major principle underlying the entire Montessori method. Dr. Montessori believed children should be respected. Respect is shown for children by not interrupting their concentration. Respect is also shown by giving pupils the freedom to make choices, to do things themselves, and learn things for themselves. Teachers model respect for all students as well as peaceful conflict resolution, and observe without judgement.

THE ABSORBENT MIND – Montessori education is based on the principle that, simply by living, children are constantly learning from the world around them. Through their senses children constantly absorb information from their world.

SENSITIVE PERIODS – Montessori pedagogy believes there are certain periods during which children are more ready to learn certain skills. These are known as sensitive periods, and last only as long as it is necessary for the child to acquire the skills. The order in which sensitive periods occur, as well as timing of the period varies for each child. Montessori teachers identify sensitive periods in their students and provide the resources for children to flourish during this time.

THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT – The Montessori method suggests that children learn best in an environment that has been prepared to enable them to do things for themselves. Always child-centered, the learning environment should promote freedom for the children to explore materials of their choice. Montessori teachers prepare the learning environment by making materials and experiences available to children in an orderly and independent way.

AUTO-EDUCATION – Auto education, or self-education, is the concept that children are capable of educating themselves. This is one of the most important beliefs in the Montessori method. Montessori teachers provide the environment, the inspiration, the guidance and the encouragement for children to educate themselves.