

# Montessori Program

## In a Montessori Classroom you might see ...

- multi-age groups in each class, ideally in a three-year age span: 6-9 year olds and 9-12 year olds;
- children usually staying with one teacher for three years;
- large unbroken time spans for work, with a minimum of interruptions so as not to disturb the child's concentration;
- students working on timelines that demonstrate the interconnectedness of the curriculum;
- classrooms that accommodate group and individual work areas;
- children working on the floor with a mat or at a table, alone or with a partner or group;
- children moving independently from task to task;
- students working with math, cultural, and language materials specifically designed for the program.

## General Principles

- Life is a continuum of developmental stages, each stage having specific needs.
- The curriculum follows the Provincial Learning Outcomes and promotes a cosmic or global view of humanity, emphasizing the peaceful interdependence of people and the environment.
- The child is viewed as a contributing member of world society.
- The program is individualized to meet the needs of each child.
- Children are in multi-age groupings which promote peer teaching and learning.
- Emphasis is placed on group cohesion, cooperation and an ungraded curriculum.
- Self-correcting concrete materials are used in a sequence matched with the child's development.

## Historical and Perspective Philosophy

Maria Montessori, born in Italy in 1870, was an active advocate for the rights of the child. After becoming Italy's first woman doctor, her interests turned to the education of children and she began her lifelong pursuit of studying child development. Her own educational method evolved over fifty years of work with children around the world. Dr. Montessori was nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize for her contributions to education and advocacy of the rights of the child.

Dr. Montessori believed that a truly educated individual continues learning long after the years spent in the classroom because of the inner motivation, a natural curiosity and a love of learning. The aim of the Montessori philosophy is to provide a learning environment that enhances the development of intellectually reflective individuals who are caring and ethical members of the community.

**The Montessori program in the Surrey School District was founded in 1981 and has grown from one class to include nearly 500 children and two school sites.**

“In order to educate, it is essential to know those who are to be educated.”

## Program Locations

Mountainview Montessori  
15225 – 98 Avenue  
Surrey, BC  
Ph: 604.589.1193

Sunnyside Montessori  
15250 – 28 Avenue  
Surrey, BC  
Ph: 604.531.4826



## Registration Procedures

Registration is on a year-by-year basis and is open to all students residing in the Surrey School District. The procedures are as follows:

1. Registration will occur for entry into all grades, including Kindergarten, each year. The registration date will be in January and registration procedures will be published in advance in the Surrey newspapers.
2. Siblings of children already in the Montessori program will receive an opportunity to register in advance of the published registration date.
3. Waiting lists will be maintained for each grade on a yearly basis in case spaces become available in any given year.
4. Students who reside out of district will only be allowed to register after those within district have been accommodated.

## Parental Involvement

Parents are children's first and most important teachers. The golden triangle of child, teacher, and parent working in partnership will help the child to flourish. There are a variety of ways in which parents can help at school:

- with material making;
- helping with home assignments and projects;
- as classroom helpers;
- having membership in the PAC and the Surrey Montessori Society;
- assisting on field trips; and
- as class parent representatives.

“The public Montessori Program in Surrey has provided the opportunity for my children to develop as independent learners. In their family-group settings they have acquired the skills of cooperation, tolerance and an appreciation for each student's specialties. The curriculum embraces an understanding of the workings of the universe and empowers them to live with respect for each other and their environment. Their capabilities as self-disciplined learners within the prepared Montessori classroom continues to give them the freedom to become all that they can be.”

*A Montessori Parent*

Please visit the website at [www.sd36.bc.ca/sites/cisc/Montessori.html](http://www.sd36.bc.ca/sites/cisc/Montessori.html)

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