

# On The Importance of Montessori Elementary

**T**he Primary classroom: a mixed age, dynamic group curious about the world they live in.

Dr. Maria Montessori brings it down to size for these students with a variety of work that stretches from maps of the world to washing cloths. Through this expanse of knowledge, each child is guided to be a proficient reader, a writer of beautiful cursive, and a mathematician, familiar with all four operations up to four digits.

The primary curriculum is designed around the sensitive periods during the first stage of a child's development. These sensitive periods are observed to be prime opportunities to present specific information, such as language or math. Sensorial materials are particularly attractive to children in the first stage of development. Have you ever noticed that all the materials in the primary classroom are beautiful? It is difficult not to touch and explore them all! In the primary classroom, all of a child's senses are refined. Through these senses, a child will process and understand their world, building self-confidence and peace.

This is a strong foundation on which Dr. Montessori wanted to continue to provide children answers to all their questions. As the primary classroom is referred to as, A Children's House, the elementary curriculum is called Cosmic Education.

The elementary teacher continues to guide the child on their journey through an integrated academic experience. Everything is connected! History is a timeline of events, not just a recitation of dates of wars. Things happen on opposite sides of the world in similar patterns. Writing is discovered in the Middle East and in faraway Asia. Advances in the sciences occur all over the world. Nothing happens in isolation. Influences ripple across the globe. Travel and trade bring interaction between all people. Ideas are shared, communication flourishes, and we, as a people, grow in humanity.

The elementary child, by nature, is a compassionate individual. Caring for each other, caring for animals are important tasks for these children to pursue. They are passionate about right and wrong. They want to do the right thing, and they want others to show compassion. The elementary classroom gives each student the opportunity to discover how they will make a difference in the world they inhabit.



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Dr. Maria Montessori



Students are encouraged to work together in the elementary classroom. Collaborations occur throughout the day with many different partners. Working together and appreciating the contributions of peers creates a peaceful environment full of respect and admiration. These tools of communication and cooperation are essential skills necessary for success in today's multinational society.

Presenting information in this way innately expresses the interdependence of all things. This awareness is humbling, encouraging a sense of gratitude in each child. Students leave the elementary program knowing themselves thoroughly. They are not only members of a class, a family, a nation. These are citizens of the world. As such, they have an ethical responsibility and the necessary techniques to confront global issues, successfully. As Dr. Montessori said, "The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind."