



OFFICE
14101 Stumptown Road
Huntersville, NC 28078

PHONE & FAX
704.875.1801 | 704.875.0915

Email
admin@christianmontessorischool.org

WEB
christianmontessorischool.org

Dear Parent,

We are delighted that you are interested in learning more about Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman. Enclosed is an information packet, which includes an overview of our school, current calendar, and a schedule of tuition and fees. This information will introduce you to many of the educational and extracurricular opportunities at our school. Also consider visiting www.christianmontessorischool.org for updated schedules and other information.

The Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman is a school with many unique qualities. The Montessori philosophy promotes an environment where each individual student is challenged, supported, and encouraged in reaching his or her full potential. It is also a warm and nurturing Christian environment where Christian principles are valued.

Finding the school that is right for you and your child is an important process and we support you in your research of the best choice for your child. Please call the school to schedule an appointment for one of our regularly scheduled Open Houses. I look forward to discussing the advantages of Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman with you.

Sincerely,

Tom Cook
Head of School
Enclosures



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INTRODUCTION

The Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman is a non-profit Christian Montessori school dedicated to following Christ as well as the spiritual and academic development of the whole child through the Montessori method of education. Founded in 1995, the school is chartered and licensed under the law of North Carolina. The school adheres to a philosophy and method of education that is geared toward developing creative, independent children who have an enthusiasm for learning. The school also considers it a priority to introduce students to the graces and blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Open to any child without regard to race, creed, color or national origin, the School supports a Christian school community and is committed to providing an excellent education for children from diverse backgrounds. Our child-centered school, with professionally trained staff and carefully prepared classrooms, promotes joy in learning and positive character development helping each child reach his or her true potential. Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman has an Infant Community (6 weeks-18 months), Toddler Community (ages of 18-36 months), and a Primary Community (3-6 years of age).

MISSION STATEMENT

Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman's mission is to provide a Montessori education that celebrates the individual gifts of the child, nurtures a passion for learning and biblical principles, and equips them for academic excellence and discipleship.

FAITH STATEMENT

We strive to provide an enriched academic experience through the Montessori philosophy in an environment that teaches Christian principles and the love of Jesus Christ to all.

PHILOSOPHY

Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman's curriculum implements the Montessori philosophy and methodology at the Infant, Toddler, pre-school and Kindergarten levels. The classroom environment stimulates intellectual, emotional, social, physical, spiritual and cultural growth. The school promotes the development of self-motivation, independence, curiosity, cooperation and respect for others within the framework of a strong academic and Christian program.

LOCATION

Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman is located at 14101 Stumptown Road in Huntersville, North Carolina and is conveniently located twenty minutes north of Charlotte, just off of Interstate 77. The campus is housed on twenty acres of picturesque country farmland. Our building offers sky-lit classrooms and serves children ages 6 weeks months through 6 years.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Telephone: 704-875-1801 | Fax: 704-875-0915

Website: www.ChristianMontessoriSchool.org



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2021-2022

August 9-13	Teacher Workweek: School Closed
August 16-18	Transition Days
August 19	First Full Day
August 26	Parent Orientation (Attendance Required)
September 6	Labor Day: School Closed
September 27	Teacher Workday: School Closed
October 15	End of 1 st Quarter
October 29	Teacher Workday: School Closed
November 11	Veteran's Day: School Closed
November 22	3 p.m. Dismissal--Parent/Teacher Conferences: Evening
November 23	Parent/Teacher Conferences: School Closed
November 24-26	Thanksgiving Break: School Closed
December 10	End of 2 nd Quarter
December 20	Teacher Workday: School Closed
Dec. 21-31	Winter Break for ALL Programs-School Closed
January 3	Teacher Workday: School Closed
January 17	Martin Luther King Day: School Closed
February 18	Teacher Workday: School Closed
February 21	Presidents Day: School Closed
March 18	Teacher Workday: School Closed
March 24	End of 3 rd Quarter 3p.m. Dismissal--Parent/Teacher Conferences: Evening
March 25	Parent/Teacher Conferences: School Closed
April 15-21	Easter Break for All Programs: School Closed
April 22	Teacher Workday: School Closed
May 25	2022 Graduation/End of 10-month programs/3pm dismissal
May 26-27	Teacher Workday: School Closed
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday-School Closed
May 31	12-month program continues
July 4	Independence Day Holiday: School Closed
August 3	Last Day of 12-month Program

It is our intention to present this calendar as accurately as possible. Any schedule changes or cancellations will be posted on the CMSLN website, and sent to parents and teachers via email.



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2021-2022 Academic Year

Fee Information, Payment Schedule, and Discounts

Program	Months	Hours	Ages	Enrollment Fee	Annual Tuition
Infant All Day	12	7:30-5:30pm		\$700	\$17,035.95
Toddler All Day	12	7:30-5:30pm	18-36 months	\$700	\$15,554.13
Toddler All Day	10	7:30-5:30pm	18-36 months	\$700	\$13,023.47
Toddler Full Day	12	8:00-3:00pm	18-36 months	\$700	\$14,153.59
Toddler Full Day	10	8:00-3:00pm	18-36 months	\$700	\$10,921.91
Toddler Half Day (5 days)	10	8:00-12:00pm	18-36 months	\$700	\$8,680.84
Toddler Half Day (5 days)	12	8:00-12:00pm	18-36 months	\$700	\$10,174.68
Primary All Day	10	7:30-5:30pm	3 years-pre K	\$700	\$12,149.85
Primary Full Day	12	8:00-3:00pm	3 years-pre K	\$700	\$12,639.49
Primary Full Day	10	8:00-3:00pm	3 years-pre K	\$700	\$10,194.45
Primary Half Day (5 Days)	10	8:00-12:00pm	3 years-pre K	\$700	\$6,740.94
Primary Half Day (5 Days)	12	8:00-12:00pm	3 years-pre K	\$700	\$7,904.16
Kindergarten (Extended Care AM)	10	7:30-8:00am	Kindergarten by Oct.1	\$700	\$1,041.92
Kindergarten (Extended Care PM)	10	3:00-5:30pm	Kindergarten by Oct.1	\$700	\$3,120.23
Summer All Day	2	7:30-5:30pm	18 months-Kinder	\$700	\$3,500
Summer Full Day	2	8:00-3:00pm	18 months-Kinder	\$700	\$3,500

Sibling Discounts

Our school offers discounts to siblings who enroll in the school. The discounts are as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> 10% for first sibling	<input type="checkbox"/> 20% for third sibling
<input type="checkbox"/> 15% for second sibling	<input type="checkbox"/> increments for each additional sibling 5%

“Let your light so shine before others, so they can see your good deeds and give honor to God in Heaven.” Matthew 5:16



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Applying for Financial Aid

In order to be considered for Financial Aid the following steps must be taken:

1. Submit a completed CMSLN Admissions application along with the CMSLN application fee to the Admissions Office. The Application fee is non-refundable.
2. Go to <http://sssbynais.org/parents> and complete the information for School and Student Services by NAIS (SSS), **Christian Montessori School Code (1573)** requesting an impartial evaluation of your family eligibility for financial aid in the upcoming school year. SSS by NAIS does charge a \$41 non-refundable fee. The Financial Aid Committee meets in April to consider applicants for the upcoming school year. We do admit students throughout the year if spaces are available. In these situations the Admissions Committee will render a decision within 10 business days of completion of SSS application.
3. You will be required to upload prior year tax return and the 2 most recent paystubs for both parents, before your review can be completed.
4. The financial aid process usually requires about 1 hour of time to complete.
5. SSS by NAIS does not notify the school of any submitted applications. Therefore, when you have completed your application, notify the business office via email to bmanager@christianmontessorischool.org, that it is ready for review.
6. You should expect to receive a "notification" letter via email detailing whether you have received financial assistance, and if so how much.
7. It usually takes 2 weeks to process and review all documents, so if you haven't received a "notification" letter from the school in two weeks, please call or email for a progress update.

Conditions of Financial Aid

1. All financial aid will be awarded on a one-year basis. Students receiving financial aid cannot be guaranteed that it will be awarded in the following school year, although the Financial Aid Committee will give their applications careful consideration.
2. The maximum level of financial aid that the Committee may award to anyone student may not exceed 30% of his or her tuition including Sibling discounts (when applicable).
3. Awards of financial aid cover tuition only and do not include any fees for materials, special activities, supervision, or transportation.
4. Any awards of financial aid shall be credited to that individual student account. Financial aid awards may not be given or transferred to any other student.
5. Financial aid will not be renewed in any case where a family receiving aid fails to keep the balance of their account up-to-date.

Information submitted to the Financial Aid Committee will remain strictly confidential.

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ENROLLMENT APPLICATION 2021-2022

Student Information			
Student's Full Legal Name _____			
Date of Birth _____	City and State of Birth _____	Social Security Number _____	
Home Address: _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	
Home Telephone Number: (____) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female

Parent(s) Information			
Father's full name: _____		Mother's full name: _____	
Home Mailing Address and phone number (if different from child's):		Home Mailing Address and phone number (if different from child's):	
Street Address _____		Street Address _____	
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone _____
Email: _____		Email: _____	
Employer Name: _____		Employer Name: _____	
Work Phone Number _____		Work Phone Number _____	
Profession: _____		Profession: _____	
Place of Employment: _____		Place of Employment: _____	

Family Information	
Please list all siblings	
Sibling Name	Age
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____

Extended Family Information	
Please list grandparent information.	
Paternal Grandparents:	Maternal Grandparents:
Name(s) _____	Name(s) _____
Mailing Address: _____	Mailing Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Family Status
Please check all that apply to the status of the student's parents.
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents married <input type="checkbox"/> Parents separated <input type="checkbox"/> Parents divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Mother remarried <input type="checkbox"/> Father remarried <input type="checkbox"/> Father deceased <input type="checkbox"/> Mother deceased
Was the student adopted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, date of adoption _____
Financial Responsibility for the student's tuition will be assumed by: _____
Names and relationships of any family members who have attended The Christian Montessori School: _____

Student's Educational Background		
Your child's present school: _____	Dates of enrollment _____ to _____	
School's Address _____	School Phone _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		
Teacher or Advisor _____		
Previous School (s)	Address	Dates of Enrollment
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
Has your child had any specialized evaluations? If so, please list:		
Test/Evaluation _____	Administered by _____	Date _____
Test/Evaluation _____	Administered by _____	Date _____
Has your child received any specialized tutoring or private treatment within the last three years? If so, please describe. _____		

Contacts

Child will be released only to the parents/guardians listed below. The child can also be released to the following individuals, as authorized by the person who signs this application. In the event of an emergency, if the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the facility has permission to contact the following individuals.

Name	Relationship	Address	Phone Number

Health Care Needs

For any child with health care needs such as allergies, asthma, or other chronic conditions that require specialized health services, a medical action plan shall be attached to the application. The medical action plan must be completed by the child's parent or health care professional.

Is there a medical action plan attached? Yes No

List any allergies and the symptoms and type of response required for allergic reactions. _____

List any particular health care needs or concerns, symptoms of and type of response for these health care needs or concerns. _____

List any particular fears or unique behavior characteristics the child has. _____

List any types of medication taken for health care needs. _____

Share any other information that has a direct bearing on assuring safe medical treatment for your child. _____

Emergency Medical Care Information

Name of health care professional _____ Office Phone _____

Hospital Preference _____ Phone _____

I, as the parent/guardian, authorize Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman to obtain medical attention for my child in an emergency.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

I, as the operator, do agree to provide transportation to an appropriate medical resource in the event of an emergency. In an emergency situation, other children in the facility will be supervised by a responsible adult. I will not administer any drug or any medication without specific instructions from the physician or the child's parent, guardian, or full-time custodian.

To be completed, signed and placed on file in the facility on the first day and updated as changes occur and at least annually.

Signature of Administrator _____ Date _____

2021-2022 Full-Year Programs (12 mo.) <i>August 16, 2021- August 3, 2022</i> <i>Monthly Cost</i>	2021-2022 Academic-Year Programs (10 mo.) <i>August 16, 2021 - May 25, 2022</i> <i>Monthly Cost</i>	*2022 Summer Programs (2 mo.) <i>May 31, 2022 – August 3, 2022</i> <i>Monthly Cost</i>
<p>All Day (7:30am-5:30pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Infant: (Tuition \$1,419.67) <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler: (Tuition \$1,296.18) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary: (Tuition \$1,201.91) <p>Full Day (8:00am-3:00pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler: (Tuition \$1,179.47) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary: (Tuition \$1,053.29) <p>Half Day (8:00am-12:00pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler – 5 days (Tuition \$847.89) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary – 5 days (Tuition \$658.68) 	<p>All Day (7:30am-5:30pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler: (Tuition \$1,302.25) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary: (Tuition \$1,214.99) <p>Full Day (8:00am-3:00pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler: (Tuition \$1,092.19) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary: (Tuition \$1,019.45) <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten: (Tuition \$941.38) <p>Half Day (8:00am-12:00pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler – 5 days (Tuition \$868.08) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary – 5 days (Tuition \$674.09) 	<p>All Day (7:30am-5:30pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler, Primary: (Tuition \$1,750) <p>Full Day (8:00am-3:00pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler, Primary and Kindergarten (Tuition \$1,750) <p>*BASED ON AVAILABILITY</p>
<p>Note: Program age groups fall approximately as follows: Infant = 6 weeks-18 months; Toddler = 18-36 months; Primary = 3 years-pre K; Kindergarten = Kindergarten by Oct.1, 2021</p>		

NOTE:

All Applications must be accompanied by the non-refundable \$100.00 fee in the form of cash, check, or money order.



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ADMISSIONS PHILOSOPHY, POLICY, AND PROCEDURE

Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman is committed to bringing young people together from a broad spectrum of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. We welcome diversity and teach our students to broaden their perspective of the world through friendship, mutual respect, and understanding. Each new application is carefully considered according to the student's individual talents, learning styles and our goal to help families find the best match between student and school.

The admissions process is a three-fold process designed to (1) give parents an opportunity to learn about the school, its philosophy and policies, as well as meet the administrative staff and faculty (2) involve the student in the decision making process by their participation in the application process and class visits (3) allow the school an opportunity to assess each child's situation and determine their ability to benefit from and contribute to what the school has to offer.

Required Steps Toward Admission:

1. Open House or School Visit

Interested families are required to attend an open house or school visit. Both parents and/or legal guardians must attend. Please call the school at 704-875-1801 to schedule an appointment. Open Houses and School Visits are an opportunity for adult learning. Therefore, we encourage families to find alternative childcare during these important visits.

2. Completed Application

Completed applications, submitted with the non-refundable application fee (\$100), will be accepted upon the parents or guardians diligent research of the school. We carefully consider each application in the order in which it was received and space availability.

3. Class Visits

Class visits will be scheduled for all children applying to the Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman. During the school visits, the child will be given the opportunity to fellowship with other students during a regular class day. In addition, the teacher will conduct a student interview. Toddlers and Primary age applicants can expect to spend 1-1½ hours in the morning in one of our classrooms.

4. Parent Observation

Both parents will have the opportunity to observe their child during his or her class visits. Observations may occur through the one-way window of each Primary and Toddler classroom. Parents of infants will participate in the visit inside of the classroom.

5. Teacher Recommendations

Teacher recommendations should be completed by the child's previous teacher(s) and mailed directly to the Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman. Recommendation Forms are provided by Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman. This step is important for all applicants who have received care or education by anyone other than the parent(s) or guardian(s).



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CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRISTIAN MONTESSORI

Maria Montessori paved the way for a unique opportunity for children to learn in a fashion that is completely holistic (cognitive, social, emotional, spiritual, and physical). Christian Montessori addresses this approach by implementing and promoting:

- Christ centeredness
- Honors stewardship
- Is teacher-servant oriented
- Respects the child
- Boasts prepared environments
- Is individualized
- Promotes hands-on experiences
- Meets the needs of the child
- Uses explorative learning
- Allows choices to be made by the child
- Consists of practical education
- Accepts patience and virtues as reality
- Is self-disciplined
- Uses natural consequences
- Utilizes Mastery Learning concepts
- Promotes self-esteem
- Is an emotionally secure process
- Builds character
- Is community oriented
- Supports the parent as the person(s) ultimately responsible for the child's education.

"You are the light of the world – a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father."

- Matthew 5:14-17

"Let your light so shine before others, so they can see your good deeds and give honor to God in Heaven." Matthew 5:16



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PARENT PARTICIPATION

CLASSROOM OBSERVATION

An important part of your child's education is your participation in the parent education opportunities offered by Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman. These opportunities are designed to educate you to the purposes and methods of Montessori work and to offer support for conscientious child rearing. As part of your continuing growth as a "CMSLN Parent" and in order to know more fully what your child's daily activities include, you are expected to make a classroom observation at least once a year. Classrooms are open for observation from October through mid-May. Observation time begins at 9:00 a.m. and lasts 30 minutes to an hour. Appointments to observe are scheduled through the Admissions office.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is essential and has significant impact on our children's classrooms as well as the greater school community. We depend heavily on our talented parent population. Whatever your interest, we need your participation. Each family is **required** to join the Parent Co-op group and volunteer 20 clock hours of service per year. These hours will be tracked through the PCO. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available through the classroom, PCO, and Administrative office.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences are formally held twice a year (Fall and Spring) to acquaint you with your child's progress. Should you need a conference at any other time, contact the classroom teacher and a conference will be scheduled at your convenience.



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PROGRAMS

INFANT (6 WEEKS – 18 MONTHS)

We take very seriously our responsibility as caretakers to all of God's children. In many cases, we are the first adults outside of family who the child will learn to trust. We work closely with the parents to better understand the needs and interests of even our youngest friends.

Teachers – Our Lead Teachers are Montessori trained and hold an N.C. Early Childhood degree. They are knowledgeable in child development and therefore understand the stages that an infant goes through as he/she grows.

Environment – Our classrooms are bright, warm, and “homey”. They are designed to allow children to navigate and explore some of their earliest milestones, including sitting, walking, eating independently and early language skills. The classroom invites the children to develop independence, confidence, and a sense of community through activities that promote motor skills, mobility, order, and self-expression.

Curriculum – Because of the unique nature of the fundamental needs of infants and young Toddlers, our day in the Infant Room is less structured than older Toddlers. We respect each child's developmental process and schedules are based on individual needs.

Language development is an integral nature of the Infants Program. A teacher's role is to constantly introduce language through the use of words, inflection, tone, and body language. Infants gather their first understanding of the world, and thrive through the interaction. Finally, we create a warm, nurturing, and loving atmosphere that surrounds the infants and is essential to their development. We treat them with respect in every encounter.

Parent Partnership – We respect the fact that allowing someone else to care for your child is a very difficult undertaking. Therefore, we work hard at developing close relationships with parents through an open door policy and frequent communication. Parents are invited to come in and spend time visiting with their child in their environment. The teachers keep detailed observational notes for each infant to share with the parents. Close communication between parent and teach is a cornerstone principle we embrace.

Move-Up – Based on availability and individual readiness, infants begin transition to the Toddler Room typically around 18 months.



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PROGRAMS

TODDLER (CHILDREN 18-36 MONTHS)

The environment of the Montessori Toddler community is beautiful and orderly. It contains furniture appropriate in size for children, according to their age, with furniture and materials made of wood or other natural substances. The outdoor environment includes materials and activities that help the children develop coordination, equilibrium, and strength.

The activities of the curriculum in the Montessori Toddler community are based on eight basic areas of development.

• Practical Life	• Language
• Eye-Hand Coordination	• Math Manipulatives
• Art and Music	• Sensorial
• Movement	• Bible

The following are some examples of daily activities.

Everyday Living Skills

Helping children to become independent	Refinement of fine motor skills
Designing creative everyday living activities	Cooking with young children
Helping children develop coordination, concentration, and a sense of order	

The Montessori Approach to Language Arts

Bringing literature and poetry into the lives of young children	Increasing vocabulary and proper enunciation of words
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Montessori Mathematics

Develop a "Mathematical Mind"	Sequencing and counting
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History and Geography

Developing a sense of time: making history come alive through concrete experiences	Seasons of the year
Celebrations of Life: Making cultural geography come alive through international festivals and celebrations	A personal timeline of the child's life

Movement

Children's games for early childhood	Creative movement
Ability to carry objects from point A to point B	Gross motor coordination and balance activities

Science and Nature Study

Plant Study	Health and nutrition education
Animal study	Nature lore: taking children outdoors
Raising classroom animals	Gardening with young children

As the student transitions from one program to the other, the curriculum remains familiar to the student with the obvious advancements that are age appropriate.

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PRIMARY PROGRAM (CHILDREN 3-6 YEARS)

Following the same structure of the Toddler level, the environment of the Montessori Primary community is also beautiful and orderly. As with all Montessori environments, it also contains furniture appropriate in size for children, according to their age, with furniture and materials made of wood or other natural substances. Typical of Montessori, the outdoor environment includes materials and activities that help the children develop coordination, equilibrium, and strength.

The activities of the curriculum in the Montessori Primary community are based on these basic areas of development and knowledge.

- Practical Life
 - Eye-Hand Coordination
 - Art
 - Bible
- Movement and Music
 - Language
 - Math Manipulatives
- Sensorial
 - Science
 - History and Geography

The following are some examples of daily activities.

Everyday Living Skills

Cooking with young children	Refinement of fine motor skills
Designing creative everyday living activities	Helping children to become independent
Helping children develop coordination, concentration, and a sense of order	

The Montessori Approach to Language Arts

Developing pre-reading skills	Teaching basic phonetics
Phonetic reading	Whole language development
D'Nealian & cursive handwriting	Composing stories with moveable alphabet
An introduction to grammar	Bringing literature and poetry into the lives of young children

Montessori Mathematics

Develop a "Mathematical Mind"	Introduction to the decimal system
Memorization made easy with Montessori charts and simple math games	Basic operations with the material: taking the time to allow children to memorize the math facts

History and Geography

Learning the names of continents and countries	Flags of many nations
Land and water formations	Environment
The city and state in which we live	The dance of the solar system
A personal timeline of the child's life	The first timeline of the formation of the Earth
Seasons and timeline of a year	Develop a sense of space: concrete mapping exercises
Celebrations of Life: Making cultural geography come alive through international festivals and celebrations	Developing a sense of time: making history come alive through concrete experiences

Movement

Children's games for early childhood	Children's dance
Movement and simple gymnastics	Gross motor coordination and balance activities

Science and Nature Study

Plant Study	Health and nutrition education
Animal study	Nature lore: taking children outdoors
Raising classroom animals	Gardening with young children

"Let your light so shine before others, so they can see your good deeds and give honor to God in Heaven." Matthew 5:16



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SOME COMPARISONS OF MONTESSORI EDUCATION WITH TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

Montessori children are usually adaptable. They have learned to work independently as well as in groups. Since they have been encouraged to make decisions from an early age, these children are problem-solvers, who make appropriate choices and manage their time well.

They have been encouraged to exchange ideas and discuss their work freely with others. Their good communication skills ease the way in new settings.

Research has shown that the best predictor of future success is a positive sense of self-esteem. Montessori programs, based on self-directed, non-competitive activities, help children develop strong self-images and the confidence to face challenges and change with optimism.

MONTESSORI	TRADITIONAL
Emphasis on cognitive structures and social development.	Emphasis on rote knowledge and social development.
After careful preparation of classroom, the teacher has an unobtrusive role in classroom activity; child is an active participant in learning.	Teacher has dominant, active role in classroom activity; child is a passive participant in learning.
Environment and method encourage internal self-discipline.	Teacher acts as primary enforcer of external discipline.
Instruction, both individual and small group, adapt to each student's pace and learning style.	Instruction of both individual and group conforms to the adult's teaching style.
Mixed age grouping.	Same age grouping.
Children are encouraged to teach, collaborate, and help each other.	Teacher does most teaching and collaboration is discouraged.
From a carefully prepared environment, child chooses own work from interests and abilities.	Curriculum structured for child with little regard for child's interests.
Child formulates own concepts from self-teaching materials.	Teacher guides child to concepts.
Child works as long as he/she wishes on chosen project, enabling him/her to develop longer spans of attention, the joy of discovery, and sense of accomplishment.	Child is generally given specific time limit for work.
Child sets own learning pace to internalize information.	Instruction pace usually set by group normal or teacher.
Learning is reinforced internally through the child's own repetition of an activity and internal feeling of success.	Learning is reinforced externally by rote repetition and rewards/discouragements.
Multi-sensory materials for physical exploration.	Fewer materials for sensory development and concrete manipulation.
Organized program for learning care of self and environment (polishing shoes, cleaning the sink, etc.).	Less emphasis on self-care instruction and classroom maintenance.
Child can work where she/he is comfortable, moves around and talks at will (yet does not disturb the work of others); group work is voluntary and negotiable.	Child usually assigned own chair; encourage sitting still and listening during group discussion.
Organized program for parents to understand the Montessori philosophy and participate in the learning process.	Voluntary parent involvement, often only with fundraisers; not participants in understanding the learning process.

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