

M3 by Multisori

MONTESSORI TODDLER
CURRICULUM FOR
AGES 18-36 MONTHS



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Meet Multisori



Montessori kids become capable, accountable, knowledgeable adults who thrive in the real world. We all want that for our learners. But, what about Montessori for parents, coops, daycares and non-traditional schools? Unfortunately, Montessori has always been a harder, more time-consuming option for those outside the framework of traditional Montessori programs.

UNTIL NOW.

At Multisori, we help uncertified Montessori guides create authentic, personalized Montessori learning environments with ease.

Meet Multisori



We understand the unique needs of Montessori homeschoolers, co-ops, daycares and non-traditional schools. That's why our curriculum is designed to be complete, uncomplicated and approachable. In fact, you don't need any training or time-consuming certifications to use it.

We offer unparalleled, ongoing support to our grown-ups both in the form of community and direct access to our founder, Mandi. Our 5-star Google rating & multiple endorsements from certified Montessori guides exemplify our commitment to excellence.

The Fine Print

Do's & Don'ts

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- Share this or any other Multisori documentation or information.
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- Copy the documentation or information in any way.

Please Do:

- Join the Multisori Facebook group - it's free & provides ongoing support, along with a worldwide, supportive tribe of like-minded Montessori homeschoolers.
- Tag your social media posts using our curriculum with #Multisori.

Feedback:

- If you are happy with your curriculum, please leave us a review on Google.
- If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please reach out to us at info@multisori.com.



Understanding Montessori

What is Montessori?

"Montessori" is the last name of Dr. Maria Montessori, a medical doctor who developed a new approach to whole-child education in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Dr. Montessori had no formal degrees or vocational certificates in child development or education. Instead, she used her observations of children from birth to adulthood in generating the Montessori model and in practice with her students. (And you can, too!)

Dr. Montessori's method has been around for over 100 years. It has been successful in virtually all cultures as well as in both short-term and long-term studies. Montessori-educated children tend to become capable, accountable, knowledgeable adults with a strong sense of self.



Understanding Montessori

What is the Montessori Method?

The “Montessori Method” can be broken broadly into 3 points:

1. Creating a child-centered educational approach,
2. Treating the child as a natural learner, capable of initiating learning and acquiring knowledge when provided a thoughtfully prepared environment, and
3. Truly valuing the development of the whole child—physical, social, emotional, and cognitive. None of these critical areas are valued above or below any other.

THAT’S IT! Yes, really.

Everything else is in the details, which we will turn to next.



Understanding Montessori

The 8 Principles of Montessori Education

“Children learn naturally through activity and their characters develop through freedom.”

- Maria Montessori

Dr. Montessori developed the principles of Montessori education over years of experimentation and observation in the classroom. In general, the Montessori principles are rooted in a deep respect for the child's own learning processes. They provide a vast amount of information on how children learn, and also serve to define how Montessori is different from traditional education. There are eight key principles of Montessori education, which are defined below.



Understanding Montessori

The 8 Principles of Montessori Education

1. Movement & Cognition are Connected

Dr. Montessori saw that physical movement is deeply connected to and significantly influences a child's cognitive development. In essence, she espoused that people, especially children, learn better when they move.

That's why Montessori materials encourage physical activity throughout the learning process. For example, children interact with large maps as part of their geography work and use hand bells as part of their musical education. This Montessori principle of education is especially important to kinesthetic learners, which most small children are.



Understanding Montessori

The 8 Principles of Montessori Education

2. Learning & Well-Being are Improved When People Feel in Control of their Lives

In Montessori classrooms, kids freely choose their work. They work on it for as long as desired. This creates the perception of control. But, the teacher chooses the materials that are available. This is essential to this Montessori principle, and is often misunderstood.

In fact, the child is choosing their work from a prepared environment that is developed to maximize learning and growth. Dr. Montessori pioneered the idea that an environment can be designed specifically to facilitate independent learning in children. Preparation of the "prepared environment" is critical to Montessori education.



Understanding Montessori

The 8 Principles of Montessori Education

3. People Learn Better When They are Interested in the Topic

In most classrooms today, children are forced to study what is presented, regardless of their interest in the material. This creates the dreaded “I hate school” syndrome. But, through the use of a thoughtfully prepared environment, Montessori education inspires children to want to learn, allowing them to focus on work that interests them. This method also helps children build intrinsic motivation (as opposed to extrinsic, which we will discuss next). Of all the Montessori principles, this is perhaps the easiest to understand. Don't you prefer to think about and work on topics that interest you? Me, too!



Understanding Montessori

The 8 Principles of Montessori Education

4. Extrinsic Rewards Hurt Motivation Once the Reward is Withdrawn

There are no gold stars, and often no grades, in Montessori classrooms. The goal is to teach children the value of learning as its own reward. When children feel rewarded simply by learning new things, they will seek education independently. Essentially, this Montessori principle nurtures this intrinsic feeling of reward by helping children derive a sense of accomplishment from completing a task, then learning to do it for themselves. That said, many Montessori classrooms have special times set aside for key subjects like reading and math, so don't feel uncomfortable saying "It's time for math!"



Understanding Montessori

The 8 Principles of Montessori Education

5. Collaboration can be Conducive to Learning

This is the primary reason that Montessori classrooms are multi-age environments; so kids can teach and learn from each other. In a homeschooling environment, this can be tough to replicate if you don't have quite a few siblings - and even then, the relationship between a child and their siblings vs. a child and their classmates is significant. That's why I recommend that homeschoolers find a co-op or other group of like-minded parents in your area. Look for kids that match your child's intelligences (more on this later). Then, set up educational playdates or just allow the kids to learn together in their prepared environments.



Understanding Montessori

The 8 Principles of Montessori Education

6. Learning in a Meaningful Context can be Better than Learning in Abstraction

This particular principle is best explained with an example: If your child loves paleontology, it's great to read a book about it and to study various types of dinosaurs, but it's AWESOME to bury dinosaur fossils in cloud dough, give the little paleontologist a little shovel and paintbrush, and then provide matching picture cards with dinosaur names so that the student can play paleontologist! So, don't be afraid of being creative, getting outside and going on field trips. Education is not strictly classroom-based, and this is one reason I love printables. They are lightweight, inexpensive and easy to bring along on virtually any trip outside.



Understanding Montessori

The 8 Principles of Montessori Education

7. There Must be a Careful Balance of Intervention

Adults should walk a careful balance in a Montessori prepared environment. It is important to master the skill of allowing a child to work and struggle just long enough to learn from it, but not so long that they become frustrated. If you don't let them work things out independently, they will not learn optimally. At the same time, you have to consider that once frustration sets in, there is no space for learning at all. For me personally, this is the hardest Montessori principle to follow. I have literally bitten my lip and sat on my hands in an effort to be true to it! It takes practice, so be patient with yourself on this one.



Understanding Montessori

The 8 Principles of Montessori Education

8. Structure in the Environment Benefits Children

A prepared Montessori environment is cultivated to provide an orderly learning space. This sense of order assists children in developing logical thought processes. Within this space, children are free to follow their interests, choose their work, and progress at their own pace.

The use of order and predictability decreases anxiety, builds independence and enhances children's love of learning by reducing negative external stressors, like change and chaos. This principle also extends to creating and adhering to routines.



Understanding Montessori

The Three Period Lesson

The three period lesson is a structured Montessori method for introducing new concepts or vocabulary to children. It involves three distinct phases: naming, recognition, and recall, all designed to help children grasp and internalize new information. The three period lesson can be used for most lessons in both Montessori's toddler and primary curricula.

The purpose of this portion of the toddler curriculum sample is to teach you, the guide, to use the Montessori three period lesson with confidence and ease. To that end, we will use a simple sorting task to help illustrate and explain the process. Instructions are on the next page.



Curriculum Sample

The Three Period Lesson

18-36 months

Supplies Needed:

- "Color Discrimination Cards" (attached)

The three period lesson is a Montessori method for helping children identify and expand their vocabulary.

Purpose: The purpose of this lesson is to teach you, the guide, to use the Montessori three period lesson. The three period lesson can be used for most lessons in this curriculum.

Before you begin:

1. Print, laminate and trim the Color Discrimination Cards.

What to do:

A few simple rules:

- When introducing something new, always begin a three period lesson with only three cards or objects. Increase the number of cards or objects as your learner becomes more familiar with the first three.
- When beginning a three period lesson, gather all materials needed for the lesson before approaching the child. Never begin a lesson without all necessary materials.
- Always sit to your student's left and lay the cards or objects out from left to right.

Follow these three parts of the three period lesson, in this order:

1. Naming:

- Slowly and deliberately, point to each card. As you point, state the name of the color or object on each card. In this example, you would point to the red card and say "Red." Do not to say "This is red." Instead, simply say: "Red." (Sometimes, this format has to be modified, so don't worry if we say "This is" or "These are" later.)
- Continue in this way until all three of the cards are named.

2. Recognizing:

- With your hands folded in your lap, say: "Show me red."
- Give your learner plenty of time to identify "red." If they point to red, simply move on to the next card. If they identify incorrectly, correct them by pointing to the correct card and saying "This is red." Then, move on to the next card. In this case, you might say "Show me yellow."
- During the first lesson, ask your learner to show you the cards in order from left to right. Later, when they are familiar with the lesson and the cards, you can jump around.

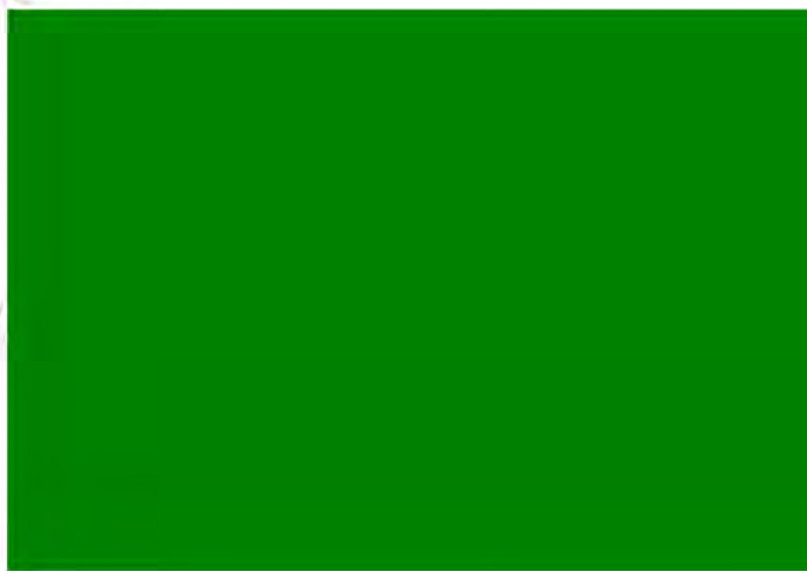
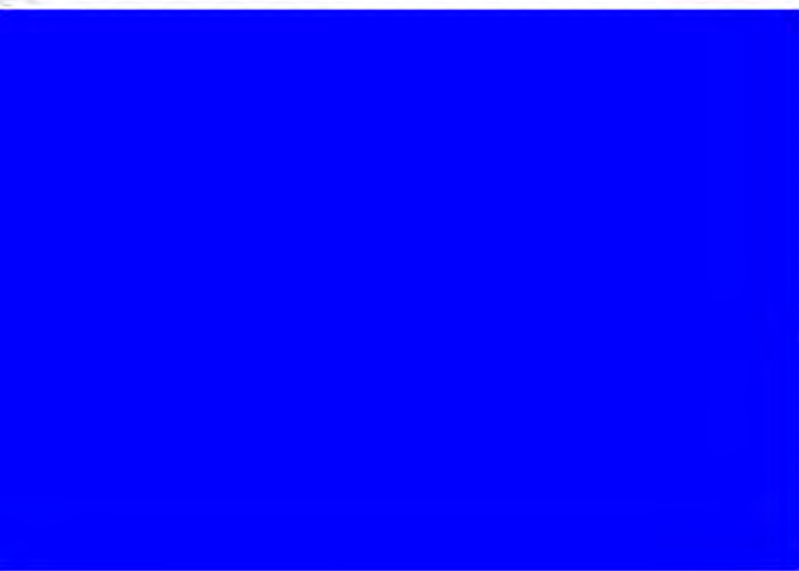
3. Remembering:

- Note: Do not introduce "remembering" until "recognizing" has been mastered. This ability is developmental, and may occur any time between 18-36 months.
- Point to the red card and say "What color is this?"
- If they answer correctly, move on to the next card. If they answer incorrectly, point to the red card and say "This is red."

Understanding
Montessori



Color Discrimination Cards



Assessing Readiness



A toddler is ready to begin this curriculum when they are able to walk, string words together, follow simple 1-2 step directions, grasp items using a whole hand, and **most importantly**, show interest in the activities.

There is a wide range of normal human development between 18-36 months, and each child is unique. **Please do not mistake readiness for intelligence.** That said, if you have any concerns about your child's development, speak to your pediatrician.

If anything in this curriculum does not seem appropriate for your learner, use your observations and intuition to pick and choose what to introduce as they mature.

Never be afraid to omit or adapt an activity to your student's needs.

This is part of following the child.