

# Maria Montessori

## PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY

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## Is Montessori Right for our Family?

Montessori believes in the developmental potential of all children. Montessori may not, however, be right for all families. A positive experience for the child requires that parents and the school share a common idea of the purpose of education. If parents enroll their child for the wrong reasons, the child may experience tension and unhappiness.

The following questions can help you determine if Montessori is the right choice for your family.

- 1 Do I encourage my child to make choices and to take responsibility at home?  Yes  No
- 2 Do I support the emphasis on cooperation rather than competition in the Montessori program?  Yes  No
- 3 Do I support the Montessori belief in fostering children's self-reliance, responsibility and independence?  Yes  No
- 4 Is my approach to discipline based upon natural and logical consequences rather than "rewards and punishments"?  Yes  No
- 5 Do I believe that my child would benefit from having the responsibility for choosing appropriate learning activities and materials?  Yes  No
- 6 Do I support the Montessori classroom organization that includes three "grades" of students?  Yes  No
- 7 Do I support the three-year learning cycle as many learning goals are long term?  Yes  No
- 8 Do I support Maria Montessori's statement that, "education is not what the teacher gives, it is a natural process spontaneously carried out by the human individual"?  Yes  No
- 9 Am I prepared to participate in parent meetings and workshops to learn more about Montessori principles at school and at home?  Yes  No
- 10 Do I believe in using anecdotal notes and Montessori checklists, rather than traditional, graded report cards?  Yes  No

If you answer "no" to two or more of these statements, you need to seek more information before registering in a Montessori program. If your beliefs are not reasonably similar to the underlying principals of Montessori education, then your child may face confusion and uncertainty as they move between home and school.

MMS will provide opportunities for families to continue to learn and grow in understanding Montessori philosophy.

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