

Explaining Montessori Philosophies

The most important years of growth in a child are between 18-months and six years. Within this time frame, your child will learn to manage and master hundreds of tasks in a progressive, systematic series of lesson plans called 'The Montessori Method'.

Our Objective

We teach your children in such a way that they understand themselves and the world around them via concepts that build lifelong learning. In a Montessori setting, children rule. As a result, the core differences between Montessori and traditional toddler, primary & kindergarten programs are many.

- Children are **free to learn at their own pace** in a hands-on, interactive environment.
- Our **focus is on self-development**. Our curriculum empowers children to learn about their own will, concentration, intellect, esteem, independence and a sense of responsibility.
- We value **mixed-age classrooms** where children can learn with and from each other.
- We **observe the whole child**. We assess multiple developmental outcomes and tailor our curriculum to each child's needs. We do not assign grades.
- We **cultivate children's self-discipline**. Disciplining a child does not include a 'time out' or punishment. Instead, we take the time to set clear expectations, talk with children about poor choices, and use natural consequences to help **children make better choices** in the future.

Most importantly, what the child learns in the classroom continues at home. Parents learn to let their kids do things themselves!

"Education is the kindling of a flame not the filling of a vessel."

- Socrates



Welcome to Your Children's House



Heather Davis, Ph.D., Director

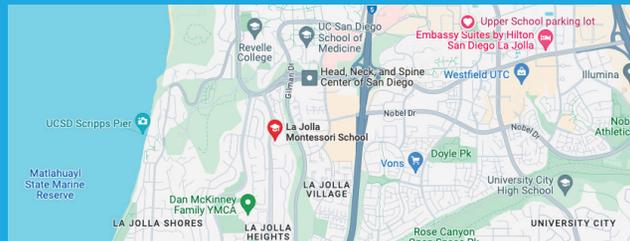
The Montessori approach to education is about lifelong learning. You might say it is the 'jewel in the crown' of our objectives. That's why we named our school La Jolla Montessori. Our teachers are passionate about building an optimal environment for young children to discover a love of learning and a willingness to persist in the face of difficult challenges.

Montessori classrooms value the importance of individualized instruction; it is a challenge we love. Our teachers work to design a lesson plan based on your child's needs and interests.

Montessori classrooms value the importance of mixed-age classrooms. Children who join our primary program spend three years in the same community; they first learn by observation, then by participation, and last through leadership experiences that afford them opportunities to 'teach a friend.'

Our program also prepares your child to become a lifelong problem solver and learner via bilingual immersion. Our teachers coordinate offering lessons in English and in Spanish to ensure your child receives support in mastering both languages.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you and your children. Together, we will create a new generation of leaders in a world where we are prepared to manage and master.



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Immersive English/Spanish Bilingual Learning to Build the Next Generation of Leaders

La Jolla Montessori SCHOOL

Teaching the Whole Child
English/Spanish Toddler, Primary & Kindergarten Programs



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Toddler, Primary & Kindergarten Programs

“Speech is one of the marvels that characterize man.”

- Maria Montessori



Why Choose La Jolla Montessori School?

Welcome to La Jolla Montessori School! Our mission is to create an environment that supports each child's physical, social-emotional, intellectual and academic growth. **We use individualized teaching methods to stimulate, challenge and respond to each child's needs. Our “whole child” approach encourages children to love school, love learning, and feel confident in themselves.** Our mixed-age classrooms afford children to not only learn through observation but to develop the skills to become leaders in their communities.

Our educated, experienced and passionate AMI Montessori teachers are like gardeners. Our teachers plant seeds of learning within our youngest learners, help them cultivate problem-solving skills, and harness their self-confidence through repetition and mastery. Then, we watch the children harvest the fruits of their labor (knowledge that lays the foundations of language, literacy, mathematics, music, art) for elementary school and beyond.

Building ‘Generation Next’ With English/Spanish Immersion

As Montessori teachers, we try to imagine what the world might look like in the future and build the skills children will need to adapt to that world. When our children graduate from college, the world will be far different. And we anticipate the children of tomorrow will need essential skills to communicate and build relationships with people from other cultures.

We use a bilingual immersion model (English/Spanish) that parallels bilingual learning at home. We aim to build foreign language fluency by the end of our primary program. Teaching two languages does more than just create bilingual fluency; children in our program learn essential truths about the world: that we are but one community among many in the world, that we speak our languages but there are others, and that we can learn to communicate and build relationships across language differences.

TODDLER PROGRAM

18 Months to 3 Years of Age

Half Day: 8:30 - 12:30 pm

Full Day: 8:30 - 3:00 pm

Extended Day Program: 7:30 - 4:30 pm

Instilling Accomplishment, Pride and Independence

The three core goals of the La Jolla Montessori School Toddler Program include helping the young child learn to:

Separate physically and emotionally from their parents. Learning to be away from your parents can be scary. **Our teachers guide our youngest students in a loving, nurturing way.** We strive for the children to feel safe and confident to explore in our classrooms.

Develop a sense of independence. **The heart of our toddler program is learning to participate in the community: to care for yourself and for the classroom.** Along the way, basic milestones are achieved: dressing and feeding oneself, ‘picking up and putting away,’ refining gross and fine motor skills, and the introduction to basic concepts of counting, vocabulary, art, music, and social skills.

Learn two languages in a natural way: one adult speaking English and the other speaking Spanish. Each day, children hear both languages spoken—as they would in a bilingual home. Our teachers coordinate giving lessons and group time (reading, stories, and songs) so that, **over time, toddlers become familiar with both languages.**

PRIMARY & KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

3 to 6 Years of Age

Half Day: 8:00 - 12:30 pm

Full Day: 8:00 - 2:30 pm

Extended Day Program: 7:30 - 5:30 pm

Growth, Learning, Understanding & Communicating With Others

More than 100 years ago, Dr. Maria Montessori designed a curriculum and an approach to teaching that, over time, has demonstrated its superiority in promoting children's sense of self-competence, self-regulation, and citizenship skills. Children who join our Primary program spend three years in a mixed-age community (3 - 5 year old children). First, they learn by observation, then by participation, and last through leadership experiences that afford them opportunities to ‘teach a friend.’ As your child grows, so do our curriculum and expectations.

Our Primary environments strive to help children understand the concept of ‘school’: school is a place to learn, where you can pursue your passions and develop your skills.

Montessori methods involve a phonological approach to language learning and a conceptual approach to mathematical understanding. For language, children learn to break down the sounds of words, map those sounds onto symbols, and then combine sounds to write their own words. Children in our programs learn to do this in both English and Spanish. Our curriculum emphasizes a write-to-read approach; the more children write their own words, the easier the transition to reading. For mathematics, children in our program learn to explore methods of counting and mathematical quantities using manipulatives: concrete tools for counting. Dr.

Montessori believed young children needed to be given access to counting infinite quantities; so our curriculum affords the young child opportunities to master the decimal system, to count large quantities, and to practice mathematical operations.

Many parents ask: “Will my child be ready for 1st grade?” Yes. Research shows children who have experienced a Montessori preparation are not only ready for the transition to elementary school, but that the social, emotional, and intellectual skills they develop will serve them to and through adolescence.

