

Sunny Learning Center

With the Montessori program

Montessori Philosophy

The child is a dynamic and curious person who has an innate need to explore and understand the world. The Montessori classroom has a multitude of fascinating materials from which to choose.

The child comes to know the world through the senses. Consequently, experiences that develop and refine the senses are fundamental to knowing the world. The sensorial curriculum area in the Montessori classroom aids the child in the development and refinement of the senses, and the many manipulative materials in the classroom allow the child to explore and learn.

The child auto-educated. Essentially, the child constructs knowledge through physically manipulating the environment. Physical manipulation, or handling of the environment, allows the child to construct mental images. These mental images lay the foundation for later abstractions.

The child learns that is of personal interest. It is important, therefore, for the child to have freedom to select activities that are highly interesting. The Montessori classroom contains hundreds of colorful, exciting materials that are of interest to children

The child repeats activities until they are fully mastered. The Montessori class schedule has long, uninterrupted times in the morning and in the afternoon for the child to concentrate on activities

The child is orderly and focused. The Montessori classroom is calm, respectful, and peaceful. This atmosphere meets the child's inner need for an atmosphere that supports concentration. The Montessori classroom is orderly and encourages the child to maintain an orderly environment.

Based upon the inner nature of the child, the role of the teacher is defined:

The teacher observes the child determine what is of interest to the child.

The teacher prepares the environment to meet the observed needs of the child

Based upon the nature of the child and the observed needs of the child the environment is prepared to serve the child.

Our program is designed to foster independence, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning by offering a balance of child-initiated and teacher-directed activities. In our carefully prepared environment, children are free to explore and engage in self-directed learning, selecting materials that align with their interests and developmental readiness. At the same time, our trained teachers provide thoughtful guidance, introducing lessons and activities that support each child's growth while encouraging deeper exploration. This balance ensures that children develop critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and a strong foundation for future learning.

We are deeply committed to creating an inclusive environment that welcomes children of all abilities. Our program embodies the Montessori philosophy of individualized learning, enabling us to tailor materials, instruction, and support to meet the distinct needs of each child. Through mixed-age classrooms, hands-on learning experiences, and a focus on independence and collaboration, we foster a community where every child is valued, respected, and encouraged to reach their full potential. Our trained teachers work closely with families and specialists to ensure that all children, regardless of ability, receive the guidance and accommodations needed to thrive.

Philosophy Statement Addendum shared with families and staff on (May 1st, 2026)

At our Montessori preschool, we recognize and celebrate the diverse interests, languages, and cultural backgrounds of the children in our care. Rooted in Dr. Maria Montessori's philosophy, our program is designed to honor each child as an individual, supporting their natural curiosity while fostering a deep respect for diversity and inclusion.

Responding to Children's Interests

Our prepared environment is intentionally designed to adapt to the evolving interests of the children. Teachers observe students closely to identify emerging passions and provide materials and lessons that align with those interests. For

example, when a group of children expressed curiosity about insects, we enriched the classroom with magnifying glasses, classification cards, and non-fiction books about bugs, incorporating this theme across practical life, language, and art areas.

Supporting Primary Languages

Language development is central to the Montessori Method, and we embrace the linguistic backgrounds of all our students. Our educators incorporate multilingual materials—such as picture labels, books, songs, and greetings—into the classroom to reflect the home languages of the children. For example, if a child speaks Chinese at home, we include Chinese vocabulary cards and invite Chinese-speaking parents to share songs or stories in their language. This approach supports bilingual development and affirms each child's identity.

Honoring Cultural Backgrounds

We foster an inclusive community where children learn about and respect a variety of cultures. Our curriculum includes activities, stories, celebrations, and artifacts that reflect the diverse cultural backgrounds of our students and staff. For instance, during our “Cultural Celebrations” weeks, families are invited to share traditions, foods, clothing, or music from their heritage. A recent example included a child's family leading a Diwali activity where students created paper lanterns and learned a traditional song.

Through these practices, our Montessori program ensures that every child feels seen, valued, and empowered to grow in a respectful and inclusive learning environment.