

Develop 21st century skills through the Montessori Method

The three 'R's of education

50 years ago, as part of basic skills, it was enough to master the “Three Rs” (reading, writing, and arithmetic). In the modern “globalized world,” the “Three Rs” simply aren't enough.

The 4 Cs to prepare 21st century citizens

If today's students want to compete in this global society, however, they must also be proficient Communicators, Creators, Critical thinkers, and Collaborators (the “4 Cs”).

As educators prepare students for this new global society, teaching the core content subjects—math, social studies, the arts— must be enhanced by incorporating critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

The Four Pillars of Education

Education throughout life is based on four pillars: Learning to know, Learning to do, Learning to live together, and Learning to be.

(Learning: The Treasure Within (UNESCO))

The below principles are deeply integrated in Montessori Method of education:

Learning to know:

Learning through a variety of different experiences and resources to enrich knowledge and understanding, not for the sake of reward.

Learning to do:

To develop skill and capability to perform essential tasks, and problem solving. Understanding of basic concepts lays foundation for future learning.

Learning to live together:

By learning collaboration, cooperation, sharing, negotiation, conflict resolution, and mutual respect.

Learning to be:

To acquire confidence and develop individual potential in aspects of memory, reasoning, aesthetic sense, physical capacities and communication skills.

The Montessori Prepared Environment – adding an “R” to education

One of the key features of the Montessori Method of education is the Ready environment in classroom (called the “**Prepared Environment**” by Montessori)

The Prepared environment consists of three factors – Classroom, Apparatus and the Teacher.

1. The Montessori Classroom

- **Freedom:** The layout and the variety of material gives children freedom for movement, freedom of choice of activity, freedom to learn at own pace.
- **Ground rules (freedom with responsibility):** Wait for your turn, sharing, maintaining silence, proper usage of material, non-aggression, respect others.
- **Vertical (Mixed-age) classroom:** The child gradually assumes various roles of Mentor and leader, social learning.
- **Order and structure:** The classroom is orderly; each apparatus has its own place and arranged in a logical way. Order is one of the most important requirements for emotional comfort of the children
- **Reality and nature:** The apparatus is based on reality and child sized. This give the children the satisfaction of working with real things.
- **Cleanliness and beauty:** The school environment is clean and beautiful and in harmony with nature, thus providing a conducive environment for the children to learn.



2. The Montessori Apparatus

- **Didactic in nature:** Each material has a specific development aim; often with control of error, thus enabling the children to acquire specific skills.
- **Covering all curriculum:** Language, Mathematics, Geography, Science, Arts and Music are all part of the Montessori curriculum.
- **Only useful apparatus:** Any material which is not useful for development or not interesting is discarded



3. The Montessori Teacher

- **Qualification:** Montessori certified and practical training
- **Presentation:** Presentation of activity to the children in a specified manner and sequence
- **Observation:** Evaluation of each child by constant observation and ensure that each child covers the whole curriculum
- **Child Centric:** The needs of child is most important. The teacher is not the central part of education. "Follow the Child" is the motto of Montessori Method.
- **A guide:** present the activity to the child and then do not interfere – but always be ready to help whenever required by the child.