



When you visit a Montessori classroom to find out if it's right for your child, one thing you might notice is that the classroom is organised a bit differently than other classrooms. There's a good reason for that.

The layout of the Montessori classroom isn't random or accidental. Classroom objects are deliberately placed in different areas that correspond with the five curriculum areas that will be addressed in the classroom.

The Language Area

In the language area of the classroom, your child will begin learning about letters, phonics sounds, and reading. Here you find sandpaper letters that your child can trace with their fingertips to familiarise themselves with the alphabet.

The language area is also where you'll find storybooks, the movable alphabet, paper and writing implements, and other objects that your child will use to learn about language and develop early literacy skills.

The Sensorial Area

In the sensorial area of the classroom, your child will learn to notice details like colour, shape, texture, smell, sound, weight and temperature. In other words, they'll use their five senses to learn important details about their world. It's in the sensorial area that you find items like knobless cylinders and smelling bottles. There may be colour tablets that your child can look at to learn to distinguish between different colours and shades. Your child will be encouraged to manipulate the items in the sensorial area to learn to heighten their senses.

The Math Area

In the mathematics area your child will learn skills that will help them master math courses later on. Montessori materials are meant to be self-correcting, which helps your child become an independent learner. They can see for themselves if they made a mistake, and then correct it.

A good example of this is the Number Rods. The Number Rods introduce the child to quantity 1-10 and their corresponding number names. Through exploration with the material, the child also develops concepts in sequence of number, combinations of 10 and basic arithmetic. The materials in the math

area are meant to appear throughout a child's education, introducing different concepts at different times.

The Cultural Studies Area

The cultural studies area is where your children will learn about the greater world around them. This area contains items pertaining to geography, history, science, art and music. In many classrooms this is also where you'll find items related to botany and zoology.

That means that you'll see a great diversity of items in this area. There are maps, globes and flags. There are instruments, art work and art supplies. You may also find classroom plants in this area.

Your child will learn to appreciate their own and other cultures in this area of the classroom. They'll be encouraged to express themselves through music, art and dance. This helps your child develop their social and emotional skills as well as cognitive skills.

The Practical Life Area

In the Montessori philosophy independence is valued and it's important for children to practice daily practical skills that are useful in life outside of the classroom.

Here you find items that your child can use to care for their classroom, take care of themselves, and practice manners and social graces. For example, small children will learn how to roll and unroll mats, sharpen pencils and tie shoes. You see child-sized brooms and dusters so that children can practice cleaning up the classroom.

There are child-sized tables and chairs and even plates and cutlery. Your child will practice setting the table and sitting down with classmates to eat. Your child's teacher will help guide the class in learning about manners, like saying "please" and "thank you" or shaking hands.

Outdoors Area

Maria Montessori advocated that the whole environment should be cared for by the children of the house. In this area you will see child size equipment such as rakes, brooms, scissors and scrubbing brushes which are used to care for the environment of gardens.

In our garden programme we use a cycle of harvest, prepare, plant, protect and maintain.

Compost materials are used to create worm fertiliser and our own compost. We use this and captured water to care for our garden beds which provide multiple vegetable and fruit harvests each year for both animals and children.

Cultivating relationships between children and animals is an important part of our programme. Through giving children plenty of opportunities to care for our animals they develop a deep respect and compassion for all our living things

The children create their own activities and are the conductor of their own play. Physical activity is a combination of natural play, sandpits, tree climbing, and obstacle course as well as mini tramp, basketball, rokit, balance board, construction blocks and other seasonal activities Our environment is a place where our children can create happy and joyful childhood memories that will last a lifetime.

Basic Routine

9am-12pm

Indoor class activities (5 curriculum areas)

Bread Baking

Jam Making

Animal care

Paper making

Paper rubbish bag making

Morning Tea

Outdoor activities

Garden programme

Group songs/dance

Mat time stories/parent involvement

12pm-12.30pm

Lunch

12.30pm-3.30pm

Indoor class activities (5 curriculum areas)

Bread Baking

Jam Making

Animal care

Paper making

Afternoon tea

Outdoor activities

Garden programme

Group songs/dance

Mat time stories/parent involvement