



*North American Montessori Teachers' Association*

## Frequently Asked Questions about Montessori Education

- [What is the difference between Montessori and traditional education?](#)

Montessori emphasizes learning through all five senses, not just through listening, watching or reading. Children in Montessori classes learn at their own pace, at their own level. Learning is a joyful, exciting process of discovery leading to high levels of motivation, self-regulation and a love of learning.

- [Are all Montessori schools private?](#)

No. Approximately 200 public schools in the U.S. and Canada offer Montessori programs, and this number is growing every year.

- [Are Montessori children successful later in life?](#)

Research studies show that Montessori children are well prepared for later life academically, socially, and emotionally. In addition to scoring well on standardized tests, Montessori children are ranked above average on such criteria as following directions, turning in work on time, showing responsibility, showing enthusiasm for learning, and adapting to new situations.

- [Are Montessori schools religious?](#)

Some are, but most are not.

- [How much does Montessori cost?](#)

Public Montessori schools charge no tuition fees. Private Montessori schools are operated independently and so tuition fees vary widely. Fees for elementary age children on average is about \$8000 per year.

- [Is Montessori good for children with learning disabilities? What about gifted children?](#)

Montessori is designed to help all children reach their fullest potential at their own unique pace. A classroom whose children have varying abilities is a community in which everyone learns from one another and everyone contributes. Moreover, multi-age grouping allows each child to find his or her own pace without feeling 'ahead' or 'behind' in relation to peers.

- [What special training do Montessori teachers have?](#)

In addition to being BC certified our teachers have taken an additional credential through the North American Montessori Association.

- [Where did Montessori come from?](#)

Montessori education was founded in 1907 by Dr. Maria Montessori, the first woman in Italy to become a physician. She based her educational methods on scientific observation of children's learning processes. Guided by her discovery that children teach themselves, Dr. Montessori designed a prepared environment in which children could freely choose from a number of developmentally appropriate activities.