

# m ntessori *by the sea*

”...like a tree planted by streams of water  
Which yields its fruit in season.” Psalm 1:3

*“A Legacy of Limitless Possibilities”*

Toddler through Elementary



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# Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Montessori By The Sea! We offer a progressive Montessori program for children aged 21 months to 12 years old, in a purpose-built Montessori school, with a wide array of Montessori educational materials. Following, please find information which we hope will serve as an introduction to Montessori education.

**Our Vision** On a global level, we envision a world community that coexists in harmony, recognizing the inherent worth in us all. Our vision for Montessori By The Sea's school community is students who are passionate about life and discovery; loving, dedicated, teaching professionals who facilitate learning; administrators who both understand and create an environment to implement our vision; and supportive and involved parents.

**Our Mission** At MBTS we promote a legacy of limitless possibilities by striving to achieve the following aims:

- Love of life, learning & laughter
- Environments that engage, excite and embrace all
- Acquisition of skills necessary for a balanced, fulfilling life
- Respect: for self, others, and the universe
- Nourishing self-awareness and peace within
- Inspiring innovative thinkers
- Nurturing relationships & cultivating self-worth
- Global responsibility & citizenship

At Montessori By The Sea, the concept of educating the whole child is central to everything we do. The Montessori curriculum is *interdisciplinary, cyclical, individualized, contextual, meaningful, and holistic*, and provides students with the opportunity to learn in a variety of ways. Additionally, each student participates in enrichment classes (PE, Art, Music, Foreign Language and ICT—at the Elementary level-) weekly. This further facilitates the child's total development. We empower our students to initiate their own activities, helping them to develop self-reliance, independence, and a sense of ownership of their classroom and school environment.

The best way to gain a better understanding of Montessori education is to come by and visit our campus! We are very proud of our students and school and encourage parents to observe and see the children working and interacting in the classroom. In addition, we require that parents, preferably both if possible, schedule a tour of the classroom and school environment to give you a feel of the philosophy as well as the warm, nurturing Montessori By The Sea environment. A positive experience for your child requires that parents and school share a common view of the purpose of education. A glimpse into our day at Montessori By The Sea will give you a feel for the Montessori philosophy in action and will allow you to decide if it is a right fit for your child and your family. This is of utmost importance, as home and school must work together to optimize your child's experiences. Tours and observations are by appointment only, so please call the school at (345) 947-0684 to schedule one.

Enjoy the following pages, and we thank you for allowing us to show you the unique environments and endless opportunities for fun-filled learning that Montessori By The Sea has to offer!

# Montessori: the Woman, the Philosophy



Maria Montessori was born in the town of Chiaravalle, in the province of Ancona, Italy. In 1870, she became the first female physician in Italy. In her medical practice, her clinical observations led her to analyze how children intrinsically learn and develop based on experiences within their environments.

In 1906, she accepted the challenge to work with a group of sixty working parents in the San Lorenzo district of Rome. It was there that she founded the first Casa dei Bambini ('Children's House'). Ultimately the Montessori Method of education developed there based upon Montessori's scientific observations of

these children's almost effortless ability to absorb knowledge from their surroundings, as well as their tireless interest in manipulating materials. Every piece of equipment, every exercise, Montessori developed was based on what she observed children doing 'naturally', unassisted by adults.

This system of education is both a philosophy of child growth and a rationale for guiding such growth. It is based on the child's developmental needs for freedom within limits in a carefully prepared environment. Materials and experiences are designed to take full advantage of children's unique ability to develop their own capabilities and motivation.

## Montessori By The Sea Student Profile

In our classrooms we strive to inspire individuals to become:

- \* Life-long learners;
- \* Self-Disciplined;
- \* Effective Communicators;
- \* Accountable;
- \* Adaptable;
- \* Critical Thinkers;
- \* Informed Individuals;
- \* Respectful;
- \* Reflective;
- \* Risk Takers;
- \* Global-Minded;
- \* Balanced

**Multi-Age Classrooms** All classrooms, which are team-taught, are multi-age, allowing the child a three-year cycle of development to acquire specific skills. In contrast to age/grade level classrooms where the child has one year to cover certain learning objectives, the Montessori classroom provides flexibility over three years. The areas that do not attract the child's interest this year may hold great fascination next year. The child can explore them whenever the interest arises, without ever being 'behind'. Children are, however, encouraged to choose materials from each area of the classroom, and are assessed according to developmentally appropriate benchmarks. Multi-age classrooms also enhance learning. The youngest children receive stimulation from the older children's activities before the younger ones even receive the lessons. And of course, they want to emulate the older children's progress. The older children, in turn, benefit from helping the younger ones. They reinforce their own knowledge by 'teaching' the younger children.

# Is Montessori By The Sea Right for Your Child?

Children from a variety of cultures and backgrounds all over the world have benefited from a Montessori education. Your child will as well!

Academia is only one aspect of a Montessori environment as personal excellence in all areas of development is facilitated. The Montessori teacher is interested in the child's cognitive, physical, social, emotional and spiritual development, and it is with this mindset that the classroom environment is prepared.

You, as the parent, sense that the time may be right for your child to come to school. Perhaps the toys at home no longer seem interesting. Maybe your child has already had some positive experiences away from you. You feel that your child is ready for new experiences, challenges and friends. Now your child is ready to benefit and grow in a Montessori By The Sea classroom.

Here, he/she will feel connected to a caring community, in which his/her individual developmental needs are assessed and guided toward satisfaction through manipulative materials. Here, he/she can learn at his/her own pace, free from the time pressures of our fast-paced society. Here, he/she will gain independence, self-esteem, respect for others and life skills which are interwoven into every facet of all of our programs. Childhood happens only once. An education at Montessori By The Sea ensures that your child will make the best of his/hers in his/her preparation for life!

# Working Together to Educate the Whole Child

**At Montessori By The Sea, we work together with parents to nurture and preserve the child's natural curiosity and to develop an openness to the unlimited possibilities of life.**

## Parents as Partners

Maria Montessori strongly believed, and current research supports, that parents play a critical role in their children's education. We too believe that parents are the child's first and most influential teachers.



The Montessori By The Sea environment is a natural extension of your home, and in many ways resembles an extended family. We encourage parental involvement in the educational process. Your positive involvement is vital to your child's progress and development. He/She is gaining independence, but still needs your support and affirmation. It is very important that you understand and believe in Montessori By The Sea's philosophy and support it within your home.

In addition, parental involvement adds to this community spirit.

Because parents are treated as collaborators in Montessori, you are invited into the classroom to share and participate in activities. For working parents, classroom participation is not always possible, but there are a variety of ways to be involved. A child's educational experience is always enriched by his/her parents' direct input and action.

We also encourage and expect an open communication between teachers and parents. We welcome the opportunity for two-way communication on any ideas, suggestions or concerns.

## The Montessori Educator

A Montessori teacher is a child advocate who respects the child's total being. Since Montessori education is based on the inner motivation of the child, it is the teacher's role to work with this motivation in ways that will enhance the child's growth. The Montessori teacher does this through careful observation and through knowledge of the child's plane of development.

At Montessori By The Sea, each classroom is led by a specially trained teacher. He/she organizes and maintains the prepared environment for a program of inquiry with an atmosphere of calm and order, warmth and care, awareness and joy.

A Montessori teacher wants his/her students to be successful, yet knows that for this to happen, he/she must follow their lead, while steadfastly guiding them through required objectives to the realization of their full potential.



# Toddler Program

ages 21 months to 3 years

**"The first few years of a child's life are the most formative years. It is a time when children effortlessly absorb concepts and habits. It is also the period when roots for a love of learning are established. If our own adult ability be compared with the child's, we should need sixty years of hard work to do what he/she does in three."**

Dr. Maria Montessori

Think about your toddler-aged child. Observe. At this age, what makes your child happiest? Chances are he or she is attracted to beautiful, thoughtfully organized surroundings, and activities that are routine and have order. At the same time, you will probably find your toddler noticing what adults don't... tiny objects, hidden corners and faint noises.



According to Dr. Maria Montessori, children absorb their environment unconsciously and are capable of great learning during the first three years of their lives. We channel your child's natural curiosity and desire to learn into positive and enriching experiences in Montessori By The Sea's Toddler Program.

Our Toddler classroom is carefully planned to meet the needs of toddlers and organized for their convenience. Areas of learning are defined, yet the space is open to allow plenty of room for social interaction and activities required for growth and development. Teachers lead classes using age-appropriate Montessori materials and activities that are designed to arouse their focused interest and engagement.

Activities will support your child's growth in these areas: language acquisition, basic numeracy, practical life skills, and sensory, perceptual, and physical development.

Children do not need to be toilet-trained for acceptance into the Toddler Program. Although toilet-training is primarily a parental responsibility, we will reinforce and aid in the process.



# Casa Program

ages 3 to 6 years

At Montessori By The Sea, each child is allowed the freedom to safely experience the excitement of learning at his/her own pace, by his/her own choice, and in an environment that appeals to his/her inner needs. Using methods and materials developed by Dr. Montessori, the teacher provides a sequence of tasks sufficiently challenging and interesting to engage the child. These tasks or exercises are broken down into five areas of learning: Practical Life, Sensorial, Culture, Mathematics and Language.

## Practical Life

Activities such as sweeping, preparing snack, and tying shoes, prepare children to independently care for themselves and their environment. By performing these tasks, children develop a sense of mastery and self-confidence, coordination, and concentration.



## Sensorial

Montessori materials are designed to heighten the child's five senses. Children's senses are a key to understanding and classifying the environment. Through distinguishing, categorizing and comparing the concrete, children develop a foundation for understanding the abstract.

## Cultural and Sciences

Children learn about people, their countries and the world through continent studies which include: food, music, pictures, flags, maps/landforms, artifacts, holiday celebrations and other cultural observations. Cultural studies help to develop global awareness.

In the Science area of a Montessori classroom, children observe, explore and experiment. Whether mixing an oil and vinegar solution, caring for plants, or doing a sink and float activity, Science opens up a world of learning and discovery for the child.

## Mathematics

Children's understanding of the basic Mathematical operations emerges from using manipulative materials such as rods, beads, and sandpaper numbers. These specially designed materials build a strong foundation for numeracy which will allow them to later work with abstract Mathematical concepts. The Mathematics materials in our Casa classrooms are vast, covering arithmetic and the decimal system, measurement, fractions, patterns, and geometry.

## Language

Using Montessori materials, your child will acquire a rich vocabulary for labelling, describing, comparing and contrasting the environment and the people in it with precise terminology. Through use of the Sandpaper Letters, children learn the sounds of letters, and are soon linking letters to make words, then words to make sentences. Additional Language materials teach phonograms, puzzle words and other language conventions. They soon progress to writing letters and thus enhance their ability to express their thoughts and feelings more effectively in a variety of ways.



## Peace Education

Peace Education plays a vital role at Montessori By The Sea. By offering a global curriculum, we are able to offer the children knowledge on cultures and beliefs other than their own. By providing this diverse experience, children will ultimately respect themselves and others around them as individuals and develop tolerance of differences. We encourage children to resolve conflicts by using respectful words and teachers model and assist children to develop problem-solving and conflict resolution skills.

# Elementary Program

ages 6-12 years

"Education between the ages of six and twelve is not a direct continuation of that which has gone before, though to be built upon that basis. Psychologically, there is a decided change in personality, and we recognize that nature has made the [elementary grades] a period for the acquisition of culture, just as the [primary grades] were for the absorption of environment. Knowledge can be best given where there is eagerness to learn, so this is the period when the seed of everything can be sown, the child's mind being like a fertile field, ready to receive what will germinate into culture. But if neglected during this period, or frustrated in its vital needs, the mind of the child becomes artificially dulled, henceforth to resist imparted knowledge. Interest will no longer be there if sown too late, but at six years of age, all items of culture are received enthusiastically, and later these seeds will expand and grow."

~ Dr. Maria Montessori

## *Lower Elementary: Ages 6-9; Upper Elementary: Ages 9-12*

The Elementary Program offers a continuum that is built on the Casa experience with the intention of engaging the imagination of the child in developing a global perspective. The higher-level materials further expand and deepen the child's understanding of the concepts in their movement towards abstraction. The spiral nature of the curriculum enables students to revisit concepts to which they have been exposed at increasing levels of complexity. By building on the basic skills acquired in the Casa Program, the elementary child now transitions from concrete to abstract reasoning. Our Elementary Program provides a full expression of the Montessori principles of self-directed, individualized learning in a truly integrated curriculum. Time management skills are developed through daily and weekly planners. Conflict resolution skills are honed through weekly community meetings. The academic curriculum of Montessori By The Sea's Elementary Program is highly enriched and challenging, focusing on three key elements: mastery of the fundamental skills and basic core knowledge, the 'Great Lessons', and individually chosen research.



## **MASTERY OF THE FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS AND BASIC CORE**

**KNOWLEDGE:** In this fully integrated curriculum, the student explores Language Arts studies, Mathematics, the Arts, Science, Social Sciences, Life Skills, community involvement and service, and Peace Education.

**Language Arts:** The world of Language is expanded upon at the Elementary level as the students have the opportunity to explore the intricacies of the English language. On a daily basis, students read and express themselves through various forms of language, such as written, spoken and visual, building their confidence and enhancing their ability to express their thoughts and feelings more effectively. Spelling, word study, writing mechanics and research and reference skills are also developed.

**Mathematics:** The Elementary Math curriculum continues to work from the concrete to the abstract to create a greater understanding of mathematical concepts. Students have higher level materials available for practical applications of these concepts as well as the opportunity for real world mathematical applications.

**Science:** Our world and universe are fascinating places. Students are actively involved in discovering the secrets they have to share with us. They are given the opportunity to observe, analyze, measure, classify, experiment, predict and make conclusions about what is probably true, and what is probably not. Science is an integral element of our curriculum and incorporates topics from Botany, Zoology, Physical Science, Astronomy, Geology, Ecology, Earth Science, Weather, and the Medical Sciences.

**Social Sciences:** In addition to Cayman studies, at the Elementary level, students learn about world geography (physical, cultural, political, and economic), culture (including Zoology, Botany, Music, Languages and Religions of various countries) and major world religions (traditions and basic beliefs). Elementary students also learn about the past and how it shapes the present.

**Information and Communication Technology:** In the Montessori Elementary classroom, the computer is considered a tool, just like a pencil or an encyclopedia. Students learn keyboarding and Internet research skills, as well as how to use various software applications. The skills learned are utilized across subject areas.

**Life Skills:** At the Elementary level the children have an abundance of opportunities to synthesize and further develop the foundational life skills introduced to them from the Toddler program onwards. Grace and courtesy, mutual respect, care of the environment, both locally and globally, and leadership are emphasized as life skills increase in complexity.

**Community Involvement and Service:** Students are actively involved in the community, and in turn, come to the realization that the responsibility to change our world for the better lies within, and that service needs to be an accepted part of everyone's life if we are to achieve this goal.

**Peace Education:** Peace Education is as vital an element in our curriculum as mathematics, language and science, and will incorporate human relations and conflict resolution skills, non-violence, leadership training, cooperative teamwork skills, and communication skills.



# Elementary Program cont.

ages 6-12 years

**THE 'GREAT LESSONS':** The 'Great Lessons' are intended to give students a cosmic perspective of the earth and our place in it. These lessons are comprised of five key areas of interconnected studies which are presented in story form and include: the story of how the world came to be, the development of life on Earth, the story of humankind, the development of Language and writing, and the development of Mathematics. (The Montessori Way). These lessons help to bring the curriculum alive for the students and inspire research projects and additional areas of study, allowing for an in-depth, thorough investigation of various topics.

**INDIVIDUALLY CHOSEN RESEARCH:** Rather than having students memorize facts mindlessly, they will learn mindfully and develop great skill in the process of doing investigations and research using the library, Internet, public records and primary and secondary source materials. During a school year, the Elementary students are given the opportunity to choose topics of interest to them, related to the current theme of study. They are given the skills to research in order to answer specific questions, write about and make models on the topic, and finally, to present their efforts to their peers.



Current research emphasizes the importance of giving children the life skills needed to help prepare them for success in our ever-changing future. Children today need to be life-long learners, adaptable, disciplined, critical thinkers, effective communicators, informed, ethical, respectful, global-minded, balanced, risk-takers and reflective. Maria Montessori was truly ahead of her time: over a hundred years ago, she firmly believed that these skills should be the basis for every child's learning, and that they are essential to the development of a healthy, happy, and successful human being. Today, her revolutionary philosophy on learning continues to gain acceptance and acknowledgement in the evolving educational landscape.

# MBTS Admissions Policy and Admissions Procedure

Choosing a school is an important decision for your entire family. Before enrollment, we ask that interested parents schedule a time to visit the school to meet with the teachers and observe the environment. This will give you further insight on the philosophy and structure of Montessori By The Sea (MBTS), and help inform your decision regarding the formative, educational needs of your child. It is important for your child that the school's aims and those of the parents are in sync. MBTS admits students of any economic and social class, racial and ethnic heritage, religious belief, or lack thereof, and family structure. MBTS reserves the right to select students based on compatibility with the Montessori philosophy and program.

## *Criteria for Eligibility*

- \* Toddler Program (21 Months to 3 Years)
  1. Children must be 21 months on the first day of attendance.
  2. Children do not have to be toilet trained to attend.
- \* Casa Program (3 to 6 Years)
  1. Children must be between the ages of 3 and 6 years old on the first day of attendance.
  2. Children must be **FULLY** toilet-trained (**diapers or pull-up diapers are not permitted.**)
- \* Elementary Program (6 to 12 Years)
  1. Previous Montessori experience.
  2. If no Montessori experience, the child must take part in an interview process.
  3. Official records from present school.
  4. Children entering the Elementary Program must be 6 years old by December 31st and meet all requirements for placement.

***Application Procedure*** When the decision to apply to Montessori By The Sea is made, complete the application form and send it in to Montessori By The Sea with a non-refundable CI\$250.00 application fee by the deadline. Applications received after the deadline will be considered only if a space becomes available after the first round of applicants have been placed.

## ***Admissions and Enrollment Procedure***

\* Admission decisions are made by administration and teaching staff. These decisions are based on the needs of existing classes, with an aim to provide an optimal learning environment. Parents will receive written notice of admissions status. If a place is not immediately available, you will be placed in our waiting pool in the event a position becomes available, unless otherwise advised. **Please note that new Toddler and Casa students will be transitioned into their respective classrooms and will have a later start date than returning students. Please see the calendar for current start dates.**

\* Priority is given in the following order: 1.) Returning students; 2.) Children of staff members; 3.) Siblings of present students; 4.) Application from a previous year (Please note that if you have applied for a previous year, you must reapply for the following year.) 5.) New applicants from our 'Waiting List'.

\* If your child is accepted into Montessori By The Sea, you will be sent an 'Enrollment Contract' to guarantee your child's position. Please note that you will be contractually obligated for the school year's tuition (September -June). **Please note there are penalties for early withdrawal as detailed on your child's Enrollment Contract.**

### ***Admissions and Enrollment Procedure cont.***

\* If a place is not immediately available, children may be placed in a waiting pool at the parent's request. If a space becomes available, you will be notified.

\* All families that become a part of the Montessori By The Sea community are expected to fully support all policies and procedures. This includes strict adherence to all drop-off and pick-up procedures.

\* All children accepted into Montessori By The Sea are on a six-week probation period. This time will allow the children and family to adjust into the environment and allow both MBTS and the family to evaluate the children's readiness as well as the family's compatibility with our philosophy and program.

### ***Class Placement***

\* All class placements are made by the Administration and staff at MBTS. Placements are made to maintain the balance within the classroom with respect to classroom dynamics, age, and gender of children. MBTS reserves the right to place children in order to maintain balanced classes with respect to classroom dynamics, children's ages, gender and the individual needs of students.

\* A starting date will be assigned for new students, which may differ from the announced first day of classes. The 'phasing in' of new students allows for a smooth transition for beginning children, while maintaining an even rhythm of classroom activities.