Understanding the Power of the Montessori Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Child</th>
<th>The Teacher / “Guide”</th>
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| • Independent  
• Peaceful  
• Active seekers of knowledge  
• Responsible to self and others  
• Compassionate  
• Respectful of others’ learning  
• Inquisitive  
• Creative  
• Critical thinkers  
• Collaborative  
• Self-directed  
• Self-correcting  
• Self-assessing  
• Confident  
• Enthusiastic | • Follows / observes the child(ren)  
• Matches appropriate materials and lessons to child’s sensitive period of learning  
• Values each child as a unique individual  
• Supports students in questioning, probing deeply, and making connections  
• Provides freedom within limits  
• Is difficult to spot (often sitting on the floor or at a table)  
• Make notations about each child’s progress |

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<tr>
<th>The Environment</th>
<th>The Work</th>
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| • Multi-age grouping  
• Uninterrupted blocks of work time  
• Peer learning  
• Montessori learning materials meticulously arranged and available  
• An aesthetically pleasing homelike learning environment  
• A sense of order  
• A close, caring community  
• Spaces suited to group and individual learning  
• Connected to a natural, outdoor learning environment | • Hands on approach  
• Specially designed materials  
• Early childhood students learn through sensory motor activities  
• Elementary students move learning from the concrete to the abstract  
• For middle and high school learners, with the introduction of facts and figures, thought and emotion evolve into understanding more universal concepts such as equity, freedom, and justice |