

Standard LD2: The program uses a curriculum that supports all children's learning and development

We follow the curriculum and philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician who developed a method and materials for children in the early 1900's.

The Montessori Curriculum is based in theory and research: Dr. Montessori developed her curriculum based on science as well as her own observations of children and how they learn. Her theories about brain development are proven now that the science exists to test them. ++

The Montessori curriculum produces positive child outcomes: Montessori education has been linked to increased executive function, self-help skills and pro-social behavior. ++

Montessori curriculum balances adult-directed activities with child-initiated activities: The Montessori curriculum provides opportunities for scaffolding experiences where children expand their knowledge in collaboration with adults. Children have freedom to choose activities according to their interest and ability; this freedom is balanced with adult direction, group activities and outdoor play.

Montessori curriculum specifies outcomes for key areas of development: The didactic materials are presented in a progression intended to develop self-help skills ('practical life'), refinement of senses, language, mathematics/concept development, social studies (culture/geography), science and biology.**

The Montessori curriculum specifies instructional details for care and education provider/teacher to follow: Montessori certified teachers create 'albums' or 'manuals' detailing lessons and pedagogical rationale for the curriculum areas. These include but are not limited to: *Practical Life, Refinement of Senses, Sensorial, Language, Math/Concept Development, Science, Culture, and Child Development.*

The Montessori curriculum provides instructional detail on positive adult-child interactions: Montessori teacher certification courses include direct instruction on interactions and classroom management with an emphasis on building positive relationships. Teachers have direct instruction positive adult-child interactions as well practice observation and practice teaching sessions under the supervision of a trained teacher and the training organization.

Resources:

+*The Science Behind the Genius* by Dr. Angeline Lillard (ties to outcomes)

+*Good at Doing Things* and *School 2.0* by Dr. Steven Hughes (<http://vimeo.com/15722448>)

**The Discovery of the Child* by Dr. Maria Montessori

**The Montessori Method* by Dr. Maria Montessori