

# Montessori Teaching

The Montessori teaching method was established by Dr. Maria Montessori at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is now practised worldwide and is accepted as one of the most effective ways of teaching young children.

The Montessori Method stimulates the senses of the child, at this important stage of development, through the provision of a carefully structured environment and the use of specialised Montessori equipment. It focuses on five main areas.

## Practical Life

The Practical Life section lays the foundation for all other work to be done in the classroom. The activities are everyday tasks that a child needs to learn to master the care of self and care of the environment. Such activities include pouring, sweeping and tying, as well as grace and courtesy. The activities are presented to the child in such a way that concentration, coordination, independence and order are developed.

## Sensorial

The goal of the Montessori Sensorial section is to educate the child's senses, because we learn through our senses. This curriculum area contains Montessori-specific materials that help the child refine his or her experience of sight, sound, touch, taste and smell. In addition, the materials of this section are modeled on scientifically-based concepts, such as metric system dimensions or algebraic formulas. Sensory experiences with materials such as these are the child's first step toward understanding the abstract concepts they represent.

## Language

- Enriching spoken language and vocabulary
- Developing the means for written expression
- Working in the fundamentals of reading
- Studying grammar
- Engaging in creative drama
- Experiencing children's literature

The Montessori language curriculum is an integrated approach that combines phonetics and whole language. The child is first introduced to letters and sounds. After several sounds are mastered, he can begin to encode (spell) and decode (read) words by linking these sounds together.

## **Mathematics**

Mathematics in the Montessori classroom can be separated into a few major categories: beginning to count, advanced counting, the decimal system, rational numbers (fractions), and the operations of addition, multiplication, subtraction and division. Concepts are presented in a very concrete way so that children between 3-6 years are not only able to count, but are able to skip count, square numbers and work with numbers in the thousands. Once the child has a firm foundation in the operations of addition, multiplication, subtraction and division, memorization of facts is introduced.

## **Cultural Area**

The topic of Culture Studies integrates and emphasizes geography, history, music, art, etc. The children study different areas of the world, and experience concrete examples of that area's language, literature, dress, food, artwork and music, both past and present. This increasingly important area introduces the child to our planet's great diversity of people.

## **Montessori Teaching at boNGO's Model Childcare Centers**

At boNGO Childcare Centers we imitate the Montessori equipment using locally available materials with which the same tasks and skills can be learned and practiced. Through that we provide an example that the Montessori Method and philosophy are not limited to schools that can afford the expensive manufactured Montessori equipment.