



Braemar House School

Montessori Casa Program

Introduction

Maria Montessori always emphasized that *the hand is the chief teacher of the child*. In order to learn, there must be concentration, and the best way a child can concentrate is by fixing his/her attention on some task that is being performed with his/her hands. All the equipment in a Montessori classroom allows the child to experience the joy of learning, time to enjoy the process and ensure the development of self-esteem, and provides the experiences from which children create their knowledge.

The Prepared Environment

The prepared environment is one of the main educators of the children. It is designed to welcome the children, encourage them to interact with the people and objects in the environment and help them to develop physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. The prepared environment also provides opportunities for self-correction. The children learn from their own mistakes and improve their judgment while doing the activities that interest them the most.



Although each Montessori classroom will be unique, a typical classroom contains five primary areas:

Practical Life
Sensorial
Math
Language Arts
Cultural

Listed below is a summary of these main areas here at Braemar House School:

Practical Life

Practical life exercises may seem simple and commonplace; they are actually a very important part of the Montessori program. By constant repetition of motions, the children are strengthening their muscles, perfecting their coordination, honing their concentration and gaining confidence in a particular skill. No effective learning takes place without concentration and attention. Through a variety of purposeful activities the child prepares to learn by performing exercises which help them to gradually lengthen the time in which they can focus their attention on a specific activity.



Sensorial

The sensorial materials in the Montessori classroom help the children to become aware of details by offering and isolating one differing quality such as colour, weight, shape, texture, size, sound, etc. The children work with the materials to develop vocabulary, pre-writing and pre-math skills. The sensorial materials help the children to distinguish, to categorize and to relate new information to what they already know.

Math

Numeration and computational skills are developed through the use of the Montessori math materials. The children learn by first using concrete materials; they then use abstract methods and then a combination of both. Later, by combining this equipment, separating it, sharing it, counting it and comparing it, they can demonstrate to themselves the basic operations of arithmetic. These activities give them the satisfaction of learning by discovery rather than by being told how to do the activity.



Language

The language materials in the Montessori classroom will help the children to accomplish the following:



- Raise their awareness of sounds and the way the words are made up of units of sounds.
- Help them to begin to develop the correct hand movement for writing letters.
- Help them to use symbols to write down their thoughts
- Help them use their own writing as a bridge to reading.

In addition to the Montessori language material, the children will continue to build their phonetic knowledge and reading comprehension skills by working with the “Mac and Tab Primary Phonics” story books and coordinated workbooks.

The Cultural Subjects

The Cultural subjects are designed to broaden the children’s view of the world. The children are introduced to science, history, geography, botany, zoology, art and French through a variety of “hands on” activities, visual materials and oral discussion in the classroom. These subjects are enhanced through field trips during the school year.

The children are introduced to the days of the week, months of the year, the weather around us and the changing of the seasons during daily calendar time.



The children will participate in **Music & Movement** throughout the week. The teacher will show them techniques designed to channel their natural enthusiasm for Music and Movement into productive learning experiences.

The children will visit the school Library on a weekly basis for story time and have the opportunity to choose their own book, which is brought back to class and placed in our quiet reading center for everyone to enjoy.