



Learn and Play
Montessori School

Tour Talking Points



General Lens



Child-Centered Learning

- Children choose activities based on their interest and guided by their skill level and readiness.
- Follow child's curiosity to support deeper learning and focused skill development.
- Educators guide rather than direct, supporting them through careful observation and intentional modeling.
- Builds independence and confidence.

"Every child develops differently. We meet them where they are and support them with next steps. Children are given choices in their learning, but within a carefully prepared environment designed by educators who have been trained within the Montessori approach."

Hands-On Experiential Learning

- Children learn by touching, moving, and exploring
- Materials are self-correcting, allowing children to see mistakes independently and adjust for success.
- Strong focus on real-life skills.

"Children learn through hands-on experiences and active exploration. They are constructing knowledge through their interaction with materials, connecting movement and thinking. This builds deeper understanding."

Independence

- A core goal is to help children do things for themselves: dressing, cleaning, taking care of the environment.
- Developing responsibility.
- Educators carefully observe and support, helping children 'do it by themselves'.

"We support children in doing things for themselves, building confidence, agency, and problem-solving skills. Small moments build life skills and confidence that extend far beyond the classroom."

Uninterrupted Work Time

- Defined parts of their day when children can select materials for focused skill development, supported by an intentional educator.
- Deep concentration is valued.
- Children can fully engage in learning, and be given time to challenge themselves and experience success.

"We provide children with time to settle into an activity, practice it, and feel a sense of accomplishment without being rushed. Concentration is something that is protected and celebrated!"

Movement and Learning

- Young children learn through their bodies first.
 - Children are provided with opportunities to move, carry, touch, and manipulate materials. Through repeated actions, they are building neural connections.
- Actively using materials through processes such as pouring, sorting, building and tracing, helps children truly understand concepts, not just memorizing them.
- Purposeful movement builds focus:
 - Intentional movement such as walking carefully, carrying materials, and repeating actions build concentration, coordination and self control.
- Children are supported to refine and control their movements over time, becoming more precise, coordinated and intentional in how they use their bodies.
- Controlled movement strengthens thinking and concentration.
- Materials are designed to isolate and practice specific movements.

“We are not just helping your child complete tasks. We are helping them gain control, confidence, and precision in how they move, building focus, coordination and independence.”

Focused Lens



1

Grace and Courtesy

- Focus on social skills, respect, and kindness, showcasing interconnectness among all of us.
- Teaching children how to respectfully interact with others and their environment.
- Respectful language and manners modeled consistently
- Opportunities for helping, sharing and turn-taking
- Conflicts guided peacefully, supporting independence in resolution
- Turn-taking, waiting, patience, gratitude, and taking care of each other shared spaces are all concepts consistently showcased.

“Grace and courtesy are part of foundational life skills. Children learn to be part of a community, respectful of themselves, others and their environment. These experiences build empathy, emotional awareness and a strong sense of belonging.”

2

Prepared Environment

- Environments carefully prepared, set with intention based on knowledge of the children.
- Key learning areas are showcased: practical life, sensorial, language, math and cultural studies.
 - Practical life: skills such as pouring, scooping, and transferring are showcased, building independence, coordination, confidence.
 - Sensorial: builds early math and observation skills through hands-on exploration, exploring concepts such as size, weight, texture and sound.
 - Language development: materials such as sandpaper letters, moveable alphabets and object to word matching, allows children to move from understanding sounds to letters to words, and to reading and writing.
 - Math: incorporates very specific materials such as number rods and spindle boxes, supporting children to grasp abstract math concepts in very concrete ways.
 - Cultural studies: topics such as geography, science, history, art and music are incorporated, helping children understand the world is interconnected.
- Materials are complete, clean, and accessible on shelves.
- Logical order based on developmental progression.
- Shelves are uncluttered, calm and beautiful.
- Natural materials and teacher made materials.
- Evidence of diversity and inclusivity in the materials/representations

“Every item in the classroom is chosen to support a specific area of development. The environment is intentionally calm and uncluttered, helping children feel secure while supporting their concentration. Children learn to take responsibility for their space and feel confident”

3

Presentation of Materials

- This is a one on one or small group interaction where the educator demonstrates how to use a material or complete a task in a clear and intentional way.
- Materials introduced individually at the child's level
- Presentation is slow, precise, intentional
- Three period lessons used for a variety of presentations
- Minimal words: focus on precise movement and demonstration
- Materials to be accessed for repetition after the lesson
- Timing and Readiness:
 - Materials offered based on observation and sensitive periods
 - Educators look for signs of readiness before presenting

“Every presentation has a purpose. It is not just an activity, but an intentionally designed experience that is delivered to build a specific skill at the right time.”

4

Developmental Focus and Tracking

- Developmentally appropriate expectations in routine and material interactions:
 - Toddlers: routines emphasize movement, choice, repetition, language, practical life.
 - Preschool: routines support responsibility, sensorial, early math and language sequencing.
- Observations recorded consistently to track interests, progress, challenges.
- Educators observe regularly and track progress to understand what each child is ready for next.
- Documentation highlights readiness for next material or lesson to ensure children are appropriately challenged and supported in areas that need growth.
- Tracking informs individualized planning:
 - Educators are taking notes and observing children during work time.
 - Educators are tracking which lessons have been introduced and practices.
 - Next steps are planned based on child's readiness and not a fixed schedule
 - At LAPMS, we provide our Casa children with booklets to showcase for our families the skills being actively worked on pertaining to Math and Language.

“Our educators are trained to observe and assess each child’s developmental readiness. They intentionally introduce activities and lessons that align with a toddler’s emerging skills or a preschooler’s readiness for refinement and mastering, ensuring learning is individualized and purposeful.”



Parent Conversation

Parent Conversation Cue	Suggested Response
What makes Montessori different from other programs?	"Montessori is very child-centred. Children choose activities based on their interests and readiness, while our educators guide and support them. It helps build independence, confidence, and a genuine love of learning."
How do children actually learn in this classroom?	"Children learn through hands-on experiences. The materials are designed to be explored, and many are self-correcting, so children can recognize mistakes and adjust on their own. That builds real problem-solving skills and a deeper understanding."
Will my child be ready for kindergarten?	"Yes, absolutely. Montessori builds strong foundations in language and math, but also focuses on independence and critical thinking, which are key for long-term success in school."
How do teachers support each child individually?	"Our educators carefully observe each child and introduce activities at the right time for their development. Learning is personalized, not one-size-fits-all."
What does a typical day look like?	"A big part of the day is uninterrupted work time, where children choose activities and fully engage without being rushed. That's where you see focus, confidence, and independence grow."
Parent notices children working quietly and independently	"You'll notice how focused the children are. We really protect that concentration. When children can fully engage in something, they build patience, persistence, and a strong sense of accomplishment."
Parent notices materials on the shelves	"Everything on the shelves is intentionally organized by skill level. Children know where to find materials and return them, which builds responsibility and independence."
What are these different areas in the classroom?	"The classroom is divided into key areas like practical life, sensorial, language, math, and cultural studies. Each one supports a different stage of development and builds specific skills."



Parent Conversation Cue	Suggested Response
How do you support social skills?	"We focus on what's called grace and courtesy. Children learn how to take turns, communicate respectfully, and resolve conflicts. It builds confidence and a strong sense of community."
Parent notices teacher working one-on-one with a child	"That's called a presentation. The teacher is showing how to use a material intentionally. Once the child understands it, they can practice independently and build mastery."
Why is movement such a big part of the classroom?	"Movement is a key part of learning. When children are carrying, pouring, or building, they're developing coordination, focus, and brain connections that support learning."
How do you track progress?	"Our educators continuously observe and document each child's progress. They track what's been introduced and what the child is ready for next, ensuring learning is personalized and purposeful."

Program Positioning (Use Early in Classroom)

Montessori is really about helping children become confident, independent learners. Everything you're seeing here is intentionally designed so children can explore, make choices, and build skills at their own pace, with guidance from our educators.

Tour Closing Message

Montessori gives children something really special. You're not just seeing children learn skills, you're seeing them build confidence, independence, and a genuine love of learning, setting them up for success in school and beyond.

