



Montessori Academy of London brochure

Title: Expect more from education

Introduction

Our school has been London's leader in Montessori education for half a century. Born of a family's desire to give their children "the best start in life," Montessori House of Children was established by the Harding family in 1968.

A lot has changed since then: the location, the number of students we serve – even the name of the school. But our commitment to Dr. Maria Montessori's vision of education has not.

In fact, over the years, Montessori Academy of London has become a pre-eminent Montessori school – renowned in Canada and around the world for the exceptional quality of our Montessori program. We were the first Montessori school in Canada to offer an Adolescent program, and one of the first to receive accreditation by the Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators (CCMA).

Sidebar: We are a charity committed to education choice

Montessori Academy offers something unique and valuable to the London community: Education choice. Specifically, high-quality, accredited Montessori education that puts the needs of the child first. Education that teaches children the value of being confident, compassionate and engaged citizens. Education that prepares children for life. Because we are committed to providing the families in London education choice, we are a board-governed registered charity dedicated to providing quality alternative education in the area. Our volunteer board includes current parents, alumni students and families, and community members.

What's so special about Montessori?

Montessori is child-centred education designed to help all children reach their fullest potential – at their own pace. Its real-world approach inspires a love of learning and prepares students to study, work and live successfully in the 21st century.

Dr. Maria Montessori understood that children not only absorb information and learn from a very early age, but that they actively seek new information and learning opportunities. In the right environment, this natural curiosity drives children to guide their own learning. Everything Montessori educators do strives to support self-guided learning, self-confidence, and a compassionate worldview.

QUOTE: "The child is endowed with unknown powers, which can **guide us to a radiant future**. If what we really want is a new world, then education must take as its aim the development of these hidden possibilities." – Dr. Maria Montessori



Inspiring the Joy of Learning

Montessori is a holistic approach to education that promotes the development of social skills, emotional growth and physical coordination as well as cognitive preparation for future academics. Our curriculum allows the child to experience the joy of learning and gives the child time to enjoy the process. This joy of learning enhances the development of self-esteem, and provides experiences that **teach children how to learn, not just what to learn**. Some of the hallmarks of Dr. Montessori's method:

- The "Discovery" Model
 - Students learn concepts from working with hands-on Montessori materials which are designed to ignite a child's curiosity and allow the child to "self-correct" mistakes.
- Self-direction
 - Guided by our specially trained teachers, the Montessori approach fosters independence in children. Children are given the freedom to move around the classroom and learn at their own pace.
- Large Blocks of Learning Time
 - Long, uninterrupted periods of time to work encourage greater concentration and inspire a child's autonomy.
- Multi-Age Classrooms
 - Montessori learning environments feature three-year age groupings that allow older children to become mentors and role models, and younger children to learn from and collaborate with their older peers.
- Social Awareness & Emotional Intelligence
 - Montessori prepares children for life by guiding them to develop into confident and caring adults who will become engaged members of their communities; our accredited program focuses on values, community, character and leadership.

Our students graduate Grade 8 well prepared for high school and post-secondary education ... *and* for life! They are self-motivated life-long learners who are community-minded, innovative and collaborative.

QUOTE: "*Montessori puts the student at the center. It is proven to work. ... **The approach is over 100 years old but the ideas are timeless.** The world is finally catching up with Maria Montessori's insights.*" – Steve Denning, *Forbes.com* (2011)

What is accreditation, and why does it matter?

Not all Montessori schools are created equal. Because Dr. Montessori never trademarked her name or the hands-on materials she developed, any school can look like a Montessori school and even use her name. However, they may not offer a traditional Montessori curriculum – one that best reflects Dr. Montessori's original work.

This is why accreditation counts.



In Canada, the main accrediting body that's responsible for ensuring the high standard of Montessori education across the country is the Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators (CCMA).

Accreditation helps to establish consistent standards and preserve the Montessori philosophy of education. Each CCMA school is re-accredited every five years to ensure it provides the highest-quality Montessori education available in Canada. Montessori Academy of London was one of the first schools in the country to receive accreditation more than 25 years ago

QUOTE: "One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the **happiness of the child.**" –
Dr. Maria Montessori

About Our School

Montessori Academy of London has five locations within London, serving over 330 students from Toddler through Grade 8. More than 60 highly trained, compassionate and experienced teachers guide our students on their education journey, and include professionals who specialize in Art, Music, French and Physical Education.

Toddler Program – 18 months to 3 years old

Our school offers part-day and full-day Toddler programs, which are based on the needs of toddlers. Because this time is the richest period of brain development, a wide variety of activities are presented to the child and repetition of movement is encouraged.

Casa (Preschool) Program – 3 to 6 years old

Montessori's traditional three-year age groupings in the classroom are introduced in Casa. Areas of study include Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math and Culture, and expand upon activities introduced in Toddler. This program is licensed under the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Elementary Program – 6 to 12 years old

For children in Year 1 through Year 6, the curriculum builds on students' capacity for creative thinking, problem solving and understanding the accomplishments of humanity. Between Lower Elementary (Grades 1-3) and Upper Elementary (Grades 4-6), the students move from hands-on concrete learning to more abstract thinking.

Adolescent Program – 12 to 14 years old

Our Junior High program is the oldest in Canada and has become the blueprint for other Montessori Adolescent programs. Because a solid foundation in learning is established from Toddler through Elementary, the focus of the traditional Montessori adolescent program now shifts to developing leadership skills and independence; the Junior High program successfully prepares students for their transition to high school – and beyond.



Montessori
ACADEMY OF LONDON

Specialty & Extra-Curricular Program

Montessori Academy of London offers a rich and unique Specialties Program that includes Art, Physical Education, French and Music. Extracurricular activities such as Athletics, Choir, Community Involvement and Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) inspire collaboration, social awareness and a global outlook.

QUOTE: “Montessori teaches independence, which is something that none of the other elementary schools do – and yet is so important in life.” – Lauren Riggan, Class of 2002.

Although our programs are deeply rooted in traditional Montessori, we are committed to providing our students education and learning opportunities that keep pace with our modern world. To learn more about our school and program, contact our Main Office to join an Information Session & Tour:

Reception@montessori.on.ca or 519-433-9121.

Providing Education Choice to London Families since 1968

Montessori Academy of London is a registered charity dedicated to providing alternative education choices to the London community. Since 1968, Montessori Academy of London has provided a world-class education that promotes academic excellence, and prepares students to engage the world as active citizens and successful leaders.

Charitable Registration #105229124RR001