

Primary Curriculum

The Montessori classroom is organized into five main curriculum areas. These are Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math and Cultural. In addition is a creative area. The Montessori materials are designed to stimulate the child into logical thought and discovery. Apart from conveying basic educational information, the materials develop a child's senses and coordinate his movements in preparation for reading, writing, calculation and problem solving. The child learns by discovering or himself through concrete experiences, thoroughly understanding what he is learning and laying down a solid foundation for more complex future work.

Practical Life

Practical Life exercises assist the child in learning to care for himself, of the environment and for others. Through tasks such as pouring, polishing, preparing food, tying shoes and scrubbing a chair, children develop coordination, concentration and sound work habits. The child's self-confidence and independence increase with each accomplishment.

Sensorial

Sensorial activities help the child to develop his sensory powers of smelling, tasting, hearing, feeling and seeing in order to better discriminate and classify his impressions of the world. The children being to perceive the differences in size and shape by manipulating a sphere or cube, different lengths of rods or fitting cylinders of different sizes into sockets.

Language

Language permeates the program, developing the areas of reading, literature, grammar, creative writing, spelling and handwriting – enriching vocabulary and enhancing self-expression. The child progresses from learning the formation and phonetic sounds of letters to making words with a moveable alphabet, to writing words and sentences to learning non-phonetic spelling, grammar and to reading.

Mathematics

Mathematics presents a unique and exciting concrete exploration of patterns and number concepts. The materials first introduce the concept of quantity and the symbols for the numbers 1 to 10. Using a quantity of beads and symbol cards the child becomes familiar with the numbers as a decimal system including concrete experiences with the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

The child acquires a full understanding of how numbers function and as he learns concrete mathematical concepts the materials lead him to the abstract.

Cultural

Cultural subjects include Science, History, Geography, Music and Art. To the probing, questioning mind of the preschool child, these areas are fertile fields for exploration and an extremely rich and varied curriculum is presented through real life experiences and an exciting array of matching cards, puzzles and models.

Extended Day

Children in their third year stay for an extended day. In Alberta, the government funds half a day (“Kindergarten”) provided the school meets Alberta Program of Studies criteria. Children stay in the same classroom, with the same teacher for continuity, and continue to receive lessons in the same manner. Please see *Cosmic Education and the Alberta Program of Studies* for further details.