

The Montessori Philosophy

The Montessori philosophy was developed by the first female Italian physician, Dr. Maria Montessori through scientific observation of children from many countries and every socioeconomic class. Her method has been supported by psychologists, educators, and cognitive research throughout the last 100 years. Further, Dr. Montessori's understanding of the developing child has formed a foundation for the work of many developmental scientists including: Jean Piaget, Erik Erickson, and T. Berry Brazelton.

Though Dr. Montessori is best known for her work with children 3 to 6 years old, she developed theories of engagement for humans at every level of development from conception through age 24. The classes offered are facilitated by an AMI-certified Assistants to Infancy teacher who focuses exclusively on Dr. Montessori's work relating to children from conception to three years old.



Parenting Center Programs

Prenatal Course

- For expecting parents and partners
- Six week series meets once a week in our Nido (Montessori environment for infants)

Parent-Infant Course

- For infants from 2 months to “almost walking” and a parent or adult caregiver
- Six week course meets once a week in our Nido (Montessori environment for infants)

Parent-Child Course

- For children “almost walking” to 18 months and a special caregiver
- Six week course meets once a week to explore the Young Children's Community classroom.

Montessori Parenting Center

Parent-Child Classes
Prenatal Classes
Home Consultations
Material Making Workshops



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About Our Montessori School and Parenting Center

Centennial Montessori School is recognized by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and serves children from 18 months through Elementary. Our parenting classes serve families with children from conception through three years old. We are located in a small converted residence in San Mateo and we feel truly privileged to be able work to support the efforts of parents to create and maintain Montessori environments that are fully responsive and engaging for the growing child at every level of development.

*“One becomes a well-balanced adult only if one has fully been a child.”
– Dr. Maria Montessori*



Prenatal Class

Prenatal life is a time when mother and child live as one being in a physical and spiritual communion with one another. The time in the womb lays down a foundation of experience that helps prepare the child for life in this world.

During this course we will spend time discussing the experiences of the unborn child during prenatal life and during the birth process, and the ways in which everyone involved can assist in this monumental transition for mother and baby. We will discuss the preparation of the home environment for the newborn's arrival and simple ways to support his/her development.

Parent-Infant Class

(for infants 2 months old to “almost walking” and a parent or adult caregiver)

A six week series offering an opportunity to explore the Montessori prepared environment for the infant.

This class is designed to offer support to the work of parenting and a chance to observe an environment that encourages exploration for the infant.

There will be weekly discussion topics on weaning, toileting, the child's home environment, movement and language development as well as a focus on learning the art of observation and being truly present with your infant.

Parent-Child Class

(infants “almost walking” to 18 months and a parent or adult caregiver)

Please join us for a parent-child class in the Young Children's Community facilitated by a Montessori-trained Assistants to Infancy (0-3 yrs old) guide.

This class is an opportunity for your child to work with Montessori materials designed for your child's age and skill level. Parents will explore the environment with their child, observe their child working on his or her own, and observe Montessori presentations given by the guide to their child.

There will be weekly reading materials and discussions on topics such as toileting, communication, movement, independence, and self-discipline.