

*“Education is a natural process spontaneously carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words but by experiences upon the environment.”*

*~Dr. Maria Montessori*

Montessori is an individualized approach to education that helps each child reach full potential in all areas of life. It is a student-centered approach that encourages creativity and curiosity and leads children to ask questions, explore, investigate, and think for themselves as they acquire skills.

An **Authentic Montessori Environment** must have the following basic characteristics:

- A multi-age atmosphere which encourages social interaction, peer teaching, emotional development and the opportunity for leadership
- An uninterrupted worktime, allowing for concentration and engagement in order to see connections in knowledge and to create new ideas
- A diverse set of Montessori materials, activities and experiences which are designed to foster physical, intellectual, creative, social and personal independence
- Teachers trained in the Montessori philosophy and methodology
- A family partnership working together to aid in the child’s development