

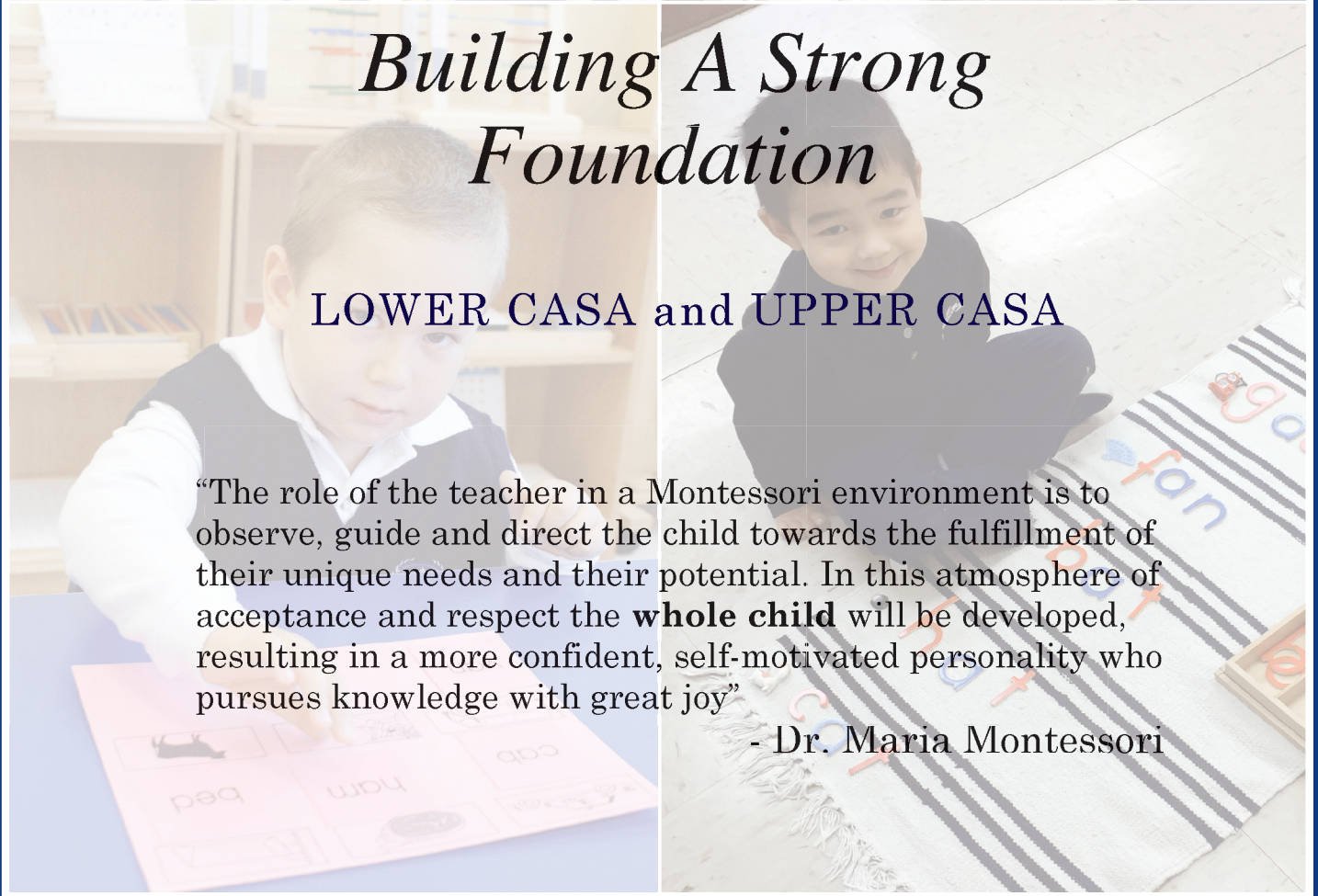


Building A Strong Foundation

LOWER CASA and UPPER CASA

“The role of the teacher in a Montessori environment is to observe, guide and direct the child towards the fulfillment of their unique needs and their potential. In this atmosphere of acceptance and respect the **whole child** will be developed, resulting in a more confident, self-motivated personality who pursues knowledge with great joy”

- Dr. Maria Montessori



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL

Welcome to another exciting new school year at Prestige Montessori!

Choosing a school that fits the needs of your child is the one of the most important and most difficult decisions that parents must make. While visiting different schools, the most important question is whether this school fits in with the needs and the expectations you as parents have. At Prestige Montessori, we are constantly striving to be the best at what we do, and that is not only educating your children, but providing a fun, nurturing, and loving environment for all children.

Prestige Montessori's philosophy is based on the Montessori principles, created by Dr. Maria Montessori, and has been used for over 100 years. We teach children to be selfmotivated, independent beings that are able to reach their highest potential.

Each child works independently as well as in a group, learning to respect the needs of others as well as their own. A love of nature, as well as a sense of responsibility for others and their environment is an important part at Prestige Montessori. This is achieved by encouraging the children to have fun and develop meaningful friendships.

At Prestige Montessori we believe in "Open Communication" with our parents. We constantly strive to make sure that parents have all of the information needed to support their children. At Prestige Montessori, we provide a safe, environment in which children can explore, create and develop their own creativity, and move at their own pace.

Parents that enroll at Prestige Montessori are encouraged to attend all of the Parent Information Nights, which fosters open communication, which in turn benefits each child.

We have prepared this handbook to assist you with information on our school and the various programs that we offer. Feel free to read through at your leisure. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the school at (905) 825-8804.

We are all looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Claudia

Sincerely,
Claudia Abramowitz
Head of School

MONTESSORI PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952) developed the Montessori Method in the early 1900's. Her academic background in medicine, psychology, and anthropology combined with clinical observations of children were the basis for the development of her philosophy of education.

Dr. Montessori observed children's natural development and responded by identifying significant and unknown facts about their behaviour. She believed that during a child's early years they pass through "sensitive periods" during which they are particularly receptive to certain stimuli, and are easily able to absorb, learn from the world around them. She developed highly specialized forms of materials that provide a source of satisfaction to the child and promote concentration and co-ordination corresponding to the individual child's rate of progress.

Dr. Montessori insisted that the classroom had to be a child friendly, orderly, and non-competitive place where children are given freedom to choose and indulge their love of work. This was called "prepared environment"

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In Montessori, the preschool level is referred to as Casa. The developmental needs of each child met through role modeling and motivation. The older students provide the younger students with assistance which is mutually beneficial.

MISSION STATEMENT

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION is the fundamental principle governing Prestige Montessori's approach to learning. The whole child (physical, social, emotional, and intellectual) must be the focal point of our activities so they can develop at their own pace.

Prestige Montessori's aim is to provide:

- A sound, balanced, educational program that is challenging to each child.
- A supportive, caring, safe, nurturing, and prepared environment for each child.
- Creative, stimulating, and challenging activities to suit each child's needs.
- English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, Zoology, History and Botany.
- French, Spanish, Art, Music appropriate to each age group and ability level.

Prestige Montessori provides

- Low teacher-student ratios.
- Bright classrooms.
- Fully-equipped with Montessori materials in each classroom.
- Individual lesson plans and instruction to suit each child.
- Experienced, Montessori accredited, and caring staff.
- French, Spanish at all levels.
- Professionally developed programs in music and art.
- Extended Care (before and after)
- Close communication with parents.
- Comprehensive student progress reports (semi-annually in December and June).
- Catered lunches and snacks.
- Secure outdoor playground.
- Summer camp available.
- Mandatory Uniforms for Lower and Upper Casa Children

PROGRAMS

Prestige Montessori offers variety of educational as well as social programs to help children and their parents.

1. LOWER CASA

Lower Casa programs are offered to children between the ages of 3 to 3.8 years of age. This is a FULL-TIME program only. Teacher to student ratio is 1 to 8.

2. UPPER CASA

Upper Casa programs are offered to children between the ages of 3.9 to 6 years of age. This is a FULL-TIME program only. The teacher to student ratio is 1 to 13.

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

4. MUSIC

Lower Casa–Group Vocal – 1 hour per week

Upper Casa– Group Vocal – 1 hour per week

5. FRENCH

Lower Casa– Conversational – 1 hour per week

Upper Casa– Conversational - 1 hour per week

6. SPANISH

Lower Casa- Conversational – 1 hour per week

Upper Casa – Conversational – 1 hour per week

7. PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Lower Casa & Upper Casa – daily access to outdoor play area (AM&PM recess), weather permitting visits to the park and participation in nature walks.

9. FIELD TRIPS

All students are taken (fall, winter, spring) on field trips to exciting, educational and fun places. These trips will always relate to relevant material being studied at the time.

Parents are encouraged to participate and accompany their child on these trips. Regardless of the program, attendance to all of the trips is open to all students registered at Prestige Montessori.

MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT – UPPER and LOWER

The Montessori program for children 2 to 6 years of age involves a series of activities that sequential, manipulative, and sensorial. These activities take advantage of the sensitive period's of a child's development, and bridges the gap between concrete and abstract learning. The Casa environment involves five main areas: PRACTICAL LIFE, SENSORIAL, LANGUAGE, MATHEMATICS, and CULTURE.

1. PRACTICAL LIFE

Practical Life exercises include skills for everyday living that assist the child to master motor functions and offer them the means to take care of themselves and their environment. These exercises are classified under headings of Preliminary Exercises, Care of the Environment, Care of Self, Grace and Courtesy, and Movement. Tasks included are: zipping, shoe polishing, buttoning, and scrubbing tables.

2. SENSORIAL

Sensorial materials enable the child to heighten their senses and perceptions. These materials encourage investigation of visual, auditory, tactile, identification and discrimination of their senses. The sensorial materials provide a solid foundation for mathematics, geometry, geography, history, botany, art, and music. They have a built in control of error that allows for individual work and repetition. The materials enable the child to work independently, unafraid of making mistakes, becoming comfortable with the fact that errors are essential in the process of learning. Exercises include are Colour Boxes, Geometry Cabinet, The Pink Tower, Sound Boxes, and Fabric Boxes. Following these early exercises, academic materials are presented as the child's interest develops.

3. LANGUAGE

Children have an endless capacity to expand and enrich their language, and as a consequence, a desire to read and write. Educators know that language is not something taught by another, but something created by the children themselves. The educator's responsibility is to facilitate the process. Using activities such as Sandpaper Letters, the Movable Alphabet, and Metal Insets the children learn to write and through the use of phonetic sounds learn to read.

MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT – UPPER and LOWER Con't

4. MATHEMATICS

Mathematic material in a Montessori environment give the children a concrete sensorial experience of the abstraction that is the essential element of math, allowing hem to store concepts, that later will allow them to deal with those in abstract terms. Children learn addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division through materials appropriate to their development, thereby achieving an understanding on which to build a strong foundation for their future education.

5. CULTURE

This area in a Montessori environment includes caring for plants and animals. It also includes French, Spanish, Science, Botany, Zoology, Geography, History and finally Art. These areas all contribute to the child having a broader knowledge and awareness of the global environment. Activities such as singing, finger plays, arts and crafts the child's creativity is brought out. An essential part of their learning is having fun and be a part of the community of friends within the classroom.

2530 Third Line, Units 1 - 3, Oakville, Ontario L6M 0G8
Phone: 905-825-8804 Fax: 905-825-2889
email: info@prestigemontessori.com