ADVANTAGES and DISADVANTAGES of MONTESSORI METHOD

BY ANITA KULKARNI
WE ARE VERY THANKFUL TO THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF PSTTI FOR GIVING US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE OURSELVES, REKINDLE OUR CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AND PRODUCE THE BEST.

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Montessori education is an educational approach developed by Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori.

Montessori education is practiced in an estimated 20,000 schools worldwide, serving children from birth to eighteen years old.
Advantages

1. Montessori school children choose how to spend their own time.

2. Hard academics are not the primary concern in preschool.

3. The system believes that children learn best at their own pace and in their own way.

4. Older children and younger children can learn from one another.

5. Children in Montessori schools are more ready to learn reading, writing and math than other children as they are not under the pressure.

6. Montessori-educated children were more peaceful and cooperative and less aggressive than other children in their age range.

7. The Montessori philosophy encourages students to develop their "soft skills," the unquantifiable life skills such as responsibility, fairness, independence, adaptability and positivity.

8. By allowing children to determine the ways they spend their time in the classroom helps train them to be self-disciplined later in life.

9. Respect for a child’s natural psychological development.

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1. A discovery model is used where students learn concepts from working with materials, rather than by direct instruction.

2. Specialized educational materials developed by Montessori and her collaborators are used.

3. Self-construction, liberty, and spontaneous activity is expected from the child and children love that. Activities are for the most part initially presented by the teacher, after which they may be chosen more or less freely by the children as interest dictates.

4. Classrooms are usually fitted with child-sized tables and chairs arranged singly or in small clusters, with classroom materials on child-height shelves throughout the room.

5. Classroom materials usually include activities for engaging in practical skills such as pouring and spooning, materials for the development of the senses, math materials, language materials, music and art materials, and more.

“My daughter has gained so much confidence at Mountain Shadows. She’s discovered how much fun learning is and wants to learn all the time. She’s become an independent little girl who takes pride in her work at school, as well as her contributions to family and home. ”
—Cindy, mother of 3-year-old Mountain Shadows Primary Program student

Disadvantages
There is no testing or grades issued or homework to teach them discipline and to measure their progress.

Children may not know how to handle a competitive environment later in life.

This method lacks structure.

Montessori schools can be expensive.

Montessori may not be the best environment for a child who is extremely social or who can't sit still and focus independently on a task.
The point is that you should consider all kinds of educational options when your child is ready to go to school. Don't just pick the same path that you took or what your friend or neighbour does. You may have similarities with your child and each of us responds differently to different environments, so it's worth really taking the time to explore all of your options when it's time for your child to expand her educational horizons.

Overall, the Montessori Method is good preparation for life. It effectively links the school, the home, and the community. Cooperative learning and shared responsibility are two of its primary goals.

Montessori methodology is closer to a true scientific method of instruction than any other educational program in the world today.