

Who was Maria Montessori? ¿Que era Maria Montessori?

The Montessori Method is a result of the experience and discoveries of Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952). Upon graduation as the first woman medical doctor in Italy, Dr. Montessori became interested in the education and training of special needs children.

Dr. Montessori designed materials and techniques which allowed her children to work in areas previously considered beyond their capacity. Dr. Montessori's great triumph came when these children took state examinations along with other children, and her children passed the exams.

Dr. Montessori's life work began with a group of disadvantaged children in 1907 when she opened her famous Casa di Bambini. Through her observations of and work with the children, she discovered their remarkable, almost effortless ability to absorb knowledge from their surroundings. Children teach themselves! This simple and profound truth inspired Dr. Montessori's lifelong pursuit of educational reform, curriculum development, methodology, psychology, teaching and teacher training, all based on her dedication to further the self-creating process of the child.



Born: August 31, 1870 in Chiaravalle (Ancona) Italy

Died: May 6, 1952 in Noordwijk, Netherlands (age 81)

Nationality: Italian

Education: University of Rome La Sapienza Medical School

Dr. Montessori died in 1952. Today, after almost 75 years of international application, the Montessori Method thrives in the United States with more than 3,500 schools established since 1957.

Written by Dr. Montessori:

Education for a New World, The Montessori Method, The Child in the Family, To Educate the Human Potential, The Discovery of the Child, From Childhood to Adolescence, The Absorbent Mind, The Secret of Childhood

Montessori Readings

Montessori: Her Life and Work by E.M. Standing
Montessori and Your Child by Terry Mallory
Montessori: A Modern Approach
by Paula Polk Lillard

Teaching Montessori in the Home

The Pre-School Years by Elizabeth G. Hainstock
The School Years by Elizabeth G. Hamstock
A Parent's Guide to the Montessori Classroom
by Aline D. Wolf