

PROVIDENCE  
Montessori



## Myths and Misconceptions of Montessori Education

Myth: Impacts of Montessori education, as compared to traditional education, are inflated

- There are many objective analyses illustrating the successful impact of Montessori education.
- One example is the article published by AAAS, *Evaluating Montessori Education, Science*, v. 313 (2006).

Myth: Montessori classrooms are disorganized and undisciplined

- School days are not segmented into subjects or class periods.
- Montessori education is based on the principle of free choice of purposeful activity within a structured learning environment.

Myth: Montessori classrooms are too structured, and they stifle creativity

- The freedom of the prepared environment encourages creative approaches to problem-solving.
- Even though teacher-directed fantasy is not central to the classroom, imaginative play is viewed as purposeful and healthy.

Myth: The Montessori method is really just some special materials

- Materials are an important component of the method, but they do not stand alone.
- Montessori educators understand how to use the materials to foster development.

Myth: The Montessori classroom does not permit social development

- A Montessori classroom provides areas and activities for solitude, as well as, interaction with peers.
- The age span within each class allows the learning of younger children from older ones to be a natural occurrence.
- Children interact with each other and with the adults.

Myth: Montessori students' are not evaluated

- An important aspect of Montessori education is that students are not evaluated with 'traditional' grades.
- Teachers evaluate how students develop as people, how they work with others, and how they embrace learning...

Myth: Montessori schools are religious

- The Montessori philosophy is not religiously oriented.
- Montessori education is part of the educational mainstream.

Myth: Montessori is just for a certain type of student

- Montessori education provides each child the opportunity to gain mastery at a successful pace.
- Teachers take cues from the child, and the organization of learning takes advantage of each child's interests.

Myth: Montessori is only for a certain type of family

- Montessori schools are comprised of families from an array of backgrounds.

- "One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child" – Maria Montessori