

Common Misconceptions about Montessori Education

Misconception	Reality
Montessori is just for preschool.	The majority of Montessori schools in the U.S. are preschools, but many elementary, middle and even high school programs are thriving in both the private and public sectors.
Montessori is just for special learners (i.e. gifted or special needs students).	Montessori is designed to work with many different learning styles; it is effective and has benefits for all learners.
Montessori is only for the rich.	Originally designed for the underprivileged children in Italy, Montessori began in America as a private preschool movement. It has blossomed into diverse programs in both the private and public sector. There are currently nearly 200 public Montessori programs in the U.S.
Children in Montessori can “do whatever they want”.	Montessori is based on the principle of students making choices of <i>purposeful</i> activity from an array of educational materials. This choice is made within a clear set of ground rules, a specified curriculum and an individualized work plan.
Montessori classrooms are too structured.	Montessori students are encouraged to choose from a vast array of activities, to follow their interests and to explore and discover.
Montessori is out of date.	In 1890 Dr. Montessori identified universal principles of child development that are now widely accepted and confirmed by research and experience. The basic principles have not changed, but the curriculum has been updated and refined. Montessori schools teach timeless skills and produce students ready to adapt to our changing world.