

# Maria Montessori



**Maria Tecla Artemisia Montessori (August 31, 1870 – May 6, 1952) was an Italian physician and educator best known for the philosophy of education that bears her name, and her writing on scientific pedagogy. At an early age, Montessori broke gender barriers and expectations when she enrolled in classes at an all-boys technical school, with hopes of becoming an engineer. She soon had a change of heart and began medical school at the University of Rome, where she graduated – with honors – in 1896. Her educational method is still in use today in many public and private schools throughout the world.**

# The Montessori method



One of Montessori's many accomplishments was the Montessori method. This is a method of education for young children that stresses the development of a child's own initiative and natural abilities, especially through practical play. This method allowed children to develop at their own pace and provided educators with a new understanding of child development. Educators who followed this model set up special environments to meet the needs of students in three developmentally-meaningful age groups: 2–2.5 years, 2.5–6 years, and 6–12 years. The students learn through activities that involve exploration, manipulations, order, repetition, abstraction, and communication. Teachers encourage children in the first two age groups to use their senses to explore and manipulate materials in their immediate environment. Children in the last age group deal with abstract concepts based on their newly developed powers of reasoning, imagination, and creativity.



# The phases of the Montessori method

The Montessori method is developed in four phases:

- **1<sup>st</sup> phase - 0/6 years: childhood - individual creation of the person**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> phase - 6/12 years: childhood - intelligence building**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> phase - 12/18 years: adolescence - construction of the social self**
- **4<sup>th</sup> phase - 18/24 years: adulthood - construction of the conscious self**



# 1° phase - 0/6 years

**The child wants to do it alone - seeks physical independence**

**Through the activities of Vita Pratica children learn to take care of themselves and the environment, while through the Sensory Material they take possession of the keys to explore the environment.**

**Each child freely chooses the activity that most attracts him, moving in a prepared environment in which he finds what satisfies his deep need to do and to discover, each one lays the foundation of self-confidence through the awareness of his own know-how.**



# 2° phase- 6/12 years

**The child wants to think for himself - he seeks intellectual independence**

**The Cosmic Education Project offers the key to exploring the world, in its beauty and in the multiplicity of its interconnections. The countless Montessori Materials provide clear and logical exploration tools, flexible in their use, graduated in complexity: children use them independently, appropriate effective study and research strategies, learn easily but above all are passionate about knowledge.**



# 3° phase- 12/18 years

**The adolescent wants to be able to manage his emotions on his own - he seeks emotional independence**

**In this phase of human development, sociality is crucial. The individual emerges from the protective shell of the family and seeks a place in the group. Groups of children led by professors and educators learn the school contents through the direct experience of running a real farm.**



# 4° phase- 18/24 years

**The adult wants to stay alone - seeks financial independence**

**It is necessary to foster real and meaningful contacts with the world of work in parallel with the training path, to favor the inclusion of each in the real world.**



# The children's house

In 1906 the Romano Beni Stabili Institute, directed by Edoardo Talamo, decided to construct 58 new buildings in the San Lorenzo district in Rome, using workers who were not particularly qualified. To solve the problem of the children of workers, Talamo turns to Maria Montessori. In 1907 he founded the first "children's house", no longer for handicapped children but for the children of the inhabitants of the San Lorenzo district of Rome. It is a special house, "not built for children but a children's home". It is ordered in such a way that the children really feel it like them.





# Fight against illiteracy

**Maria Montessori supports the absolute importance of coping with the phenomenon of illiteracy. The first phase of the Montessori method is to recognize and discover the sounds of one's own language and to match them to the corresponding alphabetic sign. In this way the visual medium is also a stimulus that helps to use the sounds of words. Writing only repeats very few graphic signs in different roles and this will be the fundamental spring for learning writing.**

