



Primary Workshop- January 26, 2017

The Primary Montessori Classroom at TNCS, designed for children for ages 3-5 years of age, is divided into six areas. Children move freely within these areas working on materials and concepts that call to each child at their stage of development. As the children go about their work, they are constantly exposed to other students doing different and often more challenging work. From this daily exposure comes an awareness of, and interest in, more challenging activities. The teacher guides each child individually, and we follow the child's lead in readiness for advanced work. Earlier in the year, TNCS teachers presented on the Practical Life and Sensorial areas of the Montessori classroom. The areas of focus for the workshop tonight are Math, Language, Global Studies, and Science in the Montessori classroom. Below is a brief summary of the core skills explored in the following areas.

Math

In Math the child learns to count, and recognize quantity and numerals in a multilingual environment. In the Montessori Primary classroom, children are first presented with concrete impressions of abstract concepts paired with quantity, and then symbols. After making the association between the quantity, then symbols of numbers 1-10, the progression is number exploration through the decimal system with extension through linear counting. Basic concepts of all four operations (addition, multiplication, subtraction and division) are also explored, while beginning the process of memorizing these facts. This initial work extends to the practical side of math, which includes kindergarten skills of time, money, fractions, and measurement. Through manipulative materials the children are not only using the method of working out problems, but learning the true meaning of numbers.

Language

In Language, the child works to prepare eyes, ears, and hands for the process of learning to read and write. Phonetic-based, the Montessori Primary classroom teaches letter sounds, then writing, and reading to children when they show interest. Children progress through single words to sentences. Once children master phonetic combinations they are incorporated into the reading and writing work.

Global Studies/Science

The Global Studies area encompasses geography, history, art, culture, and music. The ongoing focus in this area is exposure to different cultures, physical characteristics of the earth, appropriate historical perspectives, artistic contributions, and hands on experiences with globes and puzzle maps. This allows for a breakdown of the world into a study of continents and their countries, regions, and provinces. Science focuses on the topics of biology, life cycles, habitats, living/nonliving, planetary exploration.

Recommended Readings on the Montessori Philosophy:

***Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius*, by Dr. Angeline Lillard**

***A Parents' Guide to the Montessori Classroom*, by Aline Wolf**