



### Reading & Writing

The interest in writing develops in the child a short time before the interest in reading however, the skills are so related that they are developed practically simultaneously. The children learn to write numbers first, then progress to letters. They touch and feel the sandpaper letters and numbers with their writing fingers, then try to reproduce them on paper. While feeling the figure they repeat the name of the number or the phonetic sound of the letter. The children then further develop their penmanship skills with the Metal inset materials, and hand pencil control exercises.

Very early on in their classroom experience, the children are introduced to the phonetic sounds of the lower case alphabet letters. The children discover that words are merely sounds put together. Using the moveable alphabets, they learn to build words and later move on to building sentences and creating stories.

During this period of reading and writing preparation, children develop their skills and interests to a point where they burst into writing and explode into reading one right after the other.

## ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

Ages 6-12

The Elementary Curriculum is built upon the Primary Curriculum and is expanded in great detail. The classroom materials are designed to go beyond that which is traditionally considered a sixth grade work level. In addition to the basic academics, the students are involved in such activities as art, Spanish, music and cooking.

The Montessori system is a self-motivating program. The students work at their own pace and can cover materials not always offered to them in other environments, where they may be limited by grade or age. In a proper Montessori environment, a child must have the full understanding of a concept or materials before he is permitted to move on to the next level. This guarantees learning success for all children working in the Montessori prepared environment.



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## WHAT IS MONTESSORI?

**A** Montessori education is a system of learning started by Dr. Maria Montessori in 1906. The Montessori concept of education allows the child to experience the joy of learning at an early age. It teaches the child independence, responsibility, and a sense of self-worth and accomplishment.

The basic principle of the Montessori philosophy is that children have within themselves the ability to develop their intellectual and emotional power to the fullest. It recognizes the potential of the child, which is developed and nurtured by means of a Prepared Montessori Environment and working with the Montessori materials.

Our classrooms have a wide range of activities that bring the world of knowledge, concept and skills to the child. When the child works in this environment, it helps him to attain a sense of order, inner discipline and self-control.



At Amarillo Montessori Academy we take pride in the fact that all of our teachers from the infant to the elementary are Montessori certified. We have a small teacher to child ratio in all of our classrooms. We have been in operation since 1969.

## INFANT, TODDLER, BRIDGE AND PRIMARY CURRICULUM

### Practical Life

Practical life covers five basic areas to enhance the child's early development of independence: Care of person; Care of environment; Care of plants and animals; Dexterity (small motor control) and Grace and Courtesy.



They work on activities such as bead stringing, table setting, flower arranging, etc. These activities help to develop concentration, coordination, order and cleanliness.



### Sensorial

In this area of the classroom, the child finds materials that are designed to develop the five senses. He learns the tactile and visual discrimination of size and shape. New vocabulary is introduced here (big, little, thick, thin, red, yellow, blue, etc.) This enables exploration and discovery through sensorial impressions. Properly developed, these impressions can bring to the child a sense of order and oneness with this environment.



### Science (Botany & Zoology)

In Botany, the children learn about plants, parts of a flower, trees, leaves, etc. In Zoology, they learn the life cycles of animals. They also learn about physical sciences such as magnets and exercises of sink and float.

### Cultural

Dr. Montessori created a colorful set of map puzzles to teach Geography. Children learn the shapes and names of the continents and are introduced to the maps of the North American countries and the United States. They also learn landforms such as island, lake, isthmus, strait, etc.

### Mathematics

The Montessori mathematical materials provide a fundamental understanding of the number functions. The children are first introduced to the quantities and symbols. These are tangible materials so they can actually feel and touch the quantities, which are the essential tools of mathematics. With these tools they are introduced to the functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They go on to learn the decimal system for reading and working with larger numbers, up to at least four digits with ease.

