

# The Montessori Children's House

Montessori philosophy values the natural curiosity and ability for learning present within each child. Students aged 4-6 work together in a non-competitive atmosphere. Students are given a long, uninterrupted work period of 2 - 3 hours each day during which they freely choose work in math, language, science, social studies, sensory and/or practical life education. At any time on any day, all of these activities may be occurring simultaneously in the classroom. Students may be seen working independently, with a partner, or in small groups. The role of the teacher is to connect each child, through individual or small group lessons, with the materials and activities that will most benefit his or her individual growth and development.

The classroom environment is set up with care to be attractive, inviting, and accessible to students. The specially designed materials provide hands-on experiences organized into 5 distinct areas:

**Practical Life:** Children work at refining coordination of the voluntary neuro-muscular system through activities with a practical application such as pouring, chopping, sweeping, sewing, or washing. They learn and practice independence, concentration, self-control, and order.



**Sensorial:** Children explore, categorize, sort, and organize the world around them through information taken in by their 5 senses. Materials in this area provide children with experiences to refine their senses of sight, smell, touch, taste, and hearing and lays the groundwork for future work in science and mathematics.

**Language:** The language area includes work in vocabulary, phonics, grammar, reading comprehension, and writing.



**Math:** Materials in the math area are specially designed to move children sequentially from concrete representations to more abstract work with numbers. Students build deep understanding of math concepts through their hands-on work with materials.

**Cultural:** The cultural area encompasses the study of the universe itself. Works in Geography, History, Botany, Zoology, Science and the Arts are all found here.

