

## **How it works:**

- Well-educated Montessori instructors
- Individual attention and instruction
- Hands-on learning with self-correcting materials
- Materials specifically designed for the range of ages up to 6
- Materials used in sequence with presentations
- Freedom with guidance to learn how to make good choices
- Encouragement to socialize freely
- Encouragement to help each other
- Encouragement to work for joy and sense of discovery
- Learning is at each child's own individual pace

Dr. Maria Montessori was ahead of her time when she began the first Montessori school over 100 years ago. Now, in 2018, there is a wealth of scientific evidence to support her research. She was the first to introduce child-sized equipment including the tables and chairs that are seen everywhere today. Although some of the ideas have been adopted as altered versions of the original by preschool programs, the most optimal benefits for the young child's developing mind can only be achieved through an authentic Montessori program.

With over 100 years of research indicating that Montessori is the best of what is available today for early childhood education, we encourage you to give your child the very best. All of our parents and children love our school. There are over 100 years of testimonials from parents and children, as well as adults, who once attended Montessori school that are all in agreement that Montessori education provides remarkable long-term

benefits for every child. The founders of Google are among many people who credit much of their success and happiness to their Montessori experiences in their early years.

*"The most important period of life ... is the first one, the period birth to age six."*

*= Dr. Maria Montessori =*

'Montessori' has no trademark. JISK Montessori Environment provides an authentic Montessori program. We are family owned and operated by teachers with authentic A.M.S. & A.M.I. Montessori credentials that are certified by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education.

## **Suggested reading:**

"Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius" by A. S. Lillard

"Understanding the Human Being" by Dr. S. Q. Montanaro

"Finding Flow" by M. Csikszentmihayli

"Montessori Madness" by Trevor Eissler

## **Internet sites to visit:**

[www.jewelsschoolkinshasa.com](http://www.jewelsschoolkinshasa.com)

[www.macte.org](http://www.macte.org) (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education)

[www.amshq.org](http://www.amshq.org) (American Montessori Society)

[www.montessori-ami.org](http://www.montessori-ami.org) (A.M.I.: Association Montessori Internationale)

You Tube Videos:

"Brand Legacy", "Dr. Steve Hughes" & "Montessori Madness! – 321 FastDraw"

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# **JEWELS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF KINSHASA MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Montessori?**

Montessori education was developed by Maria Montessori. She was the first female medical doctor in Italy. She became more interested in psychology and education than medicine early in her career. She devoted her life to research for developing the most optimal education for children. She wanted all children to be able to reach their full potential in life and to love the process. She called it the Montessori Method.

The first Montessori school for children ages 3 – 6 opened in 1907. It was based on her meticulous research and observation of children. Her method of education was so successful that it caught on quickly throughout Europe and North America. In those days Maria Montessori was very well-known and respected by many notable people.

Today her educational system continues to be applauded by millions of people. There are Montessori schools in every major city throughout the world. Through the years, her findings continue to be supported by researchers in the areas of psychology and education. Each day the children reflect this as they excel further, and love school.

There are many aspects of the Montessori program that are superior to traditional education. While some aspects are similar to traditional Junior/Senior Kindergarten, such as group circle time, contrasting Montessori with traditional education provides clarity to its advantages.

## **How is Montessori different from Junior and Senior Kindergarten?**

Montessori is a mixture of ages together to teach and learn from each other. The classroom is prepared to meet the needs of the varying ages and abilities of each of the children in the class.

There are a wide range of materials for varying levels in every area of the classroom. The materials have been specifically designed. Each activity has been specially designed to match the way young children learn best and to be interesting and attractive to the children. The materials are sequential so that each child can progress from their appropriate level to gradually intensifying levels of difficulty. The materials are also self-correcting so that each child's sense of independence, discovery and self-confidence can flourish.

The main academic areas for study in the classroom are Math, Language, Geography, History and Science.

Montessori education also includes Practical Life and Sensorial Curriculums. These provide additional learning for children in the refining of personal development and skills that enable the children to further enhance learning in all areas of development. A focus beyond the academics is a key Montessori objective that both stimulates a passion for learning and provides enhanced cognitive abilities that become tools to learning and development throughout life. Montessori very highly emphasizes respect for each child and respect children have for themselves, others and their environment. The Practical Life curriculum includes lessons in grace and courtesy.

Qualified Montessori teachers are highly trained. Montessori teacher accreditation is a post-graduate level diploma; beyond the traditional early childhood education diploma or university degree.

Lessons are demonstrated to each child, sometimes one on one and sometimes in small groups. This high level of attention from the teachers allows them to accurately monitor the progress of each child and to observe each child's unique characteristics and needs. There are detailed observations noted and records kept for each child.

The children have freedom of choice within limits. When they aren't having a new lesson, they can choose to practice their activities among those that have been demonstrated by the teacher. They can also choose to socialize freely, which lends itself well to developing self-discipline in the controlled environment of the Montessori classroom. Children love the freedom to choose. This stimulates their joy and motivation for learning. The children's choices are limited by the rules in the classroom and the teacher's guidance for the most appropriate activities for each child.

Montessori recognizes the universal development characteristics of all children. This well-founded understanding of children's development allows the program to meet their needs in terms of the way all children naturally learn and grow. Montessori also recognizes the unique differences among children. Children are able to learn in their own style, at their own pace and with a great degree of excitement and interest.

## **What is it like in the JISK Montessori Environment?**

Our school strives to have a warm atmosphere of kindness and respect among all teachers, students and their families. We encourage open communications between parents and teachers. We encourage classroom observations for both prospective parents and enrolled families.

### **Montessori will give your child lasting advantages:**

- Happy, cooperative and collaborative attitudes
- Strong self-esteem
- A lifelong love of learning
- Self-discipline
- Self-motivation to seek challenging activities
- Responsibility
- Good work habits
- The ability to work independently
- Respect for oneself, others and their environment
- Strong academic skills
- Strong social skills

Our goal is for your child to reach their full potential in life. All of the developmental outcomes of our Montessori program will give your child the lasting advantages of being happier and more successful in their future academic years as well as throughout life. Montessori education is the only early childhood program that recognizes not only that the early years are the most important to your child's brain development, but also how this is most effectively realized for every child.