

## **THE MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT**

### **PRACTICAL LIFE**

The Practical Life activities are designed to help the children function in their environment both in and out of the classroom. They allow them to gain independence, develop concentration, coordination, and a sense of order. The confidence achieved through competence with the daily life materials lays the foundation for success in the other four areas of the Montessori environment. Children from ages 2 ½ to 6 immensely benefit from these activities.

### **SENSORIAL**

The activities in the Sensorial area help children distinguish shapes, colours, dimensions, textures, tastes, sounds and smells, as well as to name these attributes and apply them in the classroom and home environment. Activities in this area refine the senses and children develop skills in thinking, judging, comparing and sequencing. The Sensorial activities prepare the children for a mathematical and logical mind and teach them new vocabulary.

### **LANGUAGE**

Language is everywhere in the children's environment. The Montessori guide helps them to know their environment with clear, precise and relevant language. The children learn the sounds of the alphabet, work with initial and final sounds of words by using letters and objects, write words with the moveable alphabet, read simple phonetic words and then progress to more difficult words involving blends and digraphs. They also learn sight words and begin their reading with simple, phonetic books.

### **MATHEMATICS**

The confidence and skills the children acquire from their experiences in the Practical Life and Sensorial areas of the classroom prepare them for success in Mathematics. In this area, the child works with materials which sharpen and refine the logical and mathematical mind. The children will acquire an understanding of quantities and their symbols, learn the four operations, and have an opportunity for the memorization of mathematical facts--always moving from the concrete to the abstract.

### **CULTURAL**

Culture in the Montessori environment includes geography, history, science, botany, the planets, stars, and galaxies, as well as music and art. The teacher guide and Montessori materials spark the children's interest in the world around them. The children study the globe and map of the world, as well as maps of each continent. They learn about animals on each continent, study the various land and water forms, and become aware of other children of the world. They study other countries and cultures and gain an understanding of our amazing world and universe.