

About Dr. Montessori . . .

Maria Montessori is regarded as one of the most brilliant and original thinkers of the 20th century. Dr. Montessori was an Italian physician, anthropologist, mathematician, and educator who devoted her life to studying young children. Using the scientific method of objective observation, Dr. Montessori discovered that learning comes naturally to children. She identified the natural process by which children gain knowledge: through inquiry and practice. By observing children in various cultures and at different developmental stages, she discovered that, universally, there are certain "sensitive periods" in a child's life when the mind absorbs particular information and skills more readily than at any other time. Rather than "teaching" the child concepts, an environment is designed to stimulate the child's interest and to facilitate his spontaneous learning, with little or no adult intervention. By addressing the unique learning styles of the individual child, this approach eases absorption of knowledge and skills, as well as the development of independence, self-confidence and creativity.

Dr. Montessori revolutionized educational thought, stressing respect for the child, freedom of expression, self-education, and training through use of movement and the senses.

Based on her research and that of other educational innovators, Montessori developed the unique method of education practiced today in Montessori schools throughout the world.

Current psychological research supports the method of education founded by Dr. Maria Montessori over a century ago. Much of this research is explained in Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius, written by Angeline Stoll Lillard and published in 2005. Evidence is clearly conveyed by citing scientific studies along with descriptions of what happens in a Montessori classroom and why it works. This work substantiates that Montessori is a most effective method to address the way children naturally develop and learn.

About the Head of School . . .

Mary Helen Cline has served as Head of School since 1985. Following graduation from Kenyon College, she discovered the Montessori method of education and began her teaching career in 1982. She has been a teacher throughout her tenure at the school, first in Early Childhood and later in Elementary.

Mary Helen holds the position of Education Director for Montessori Educational Programs International (MEPI) and serves on the Board of Directors. She was a founding member of this organization in 1995. Prior to the founding of MEPI, Mary Helen was associated with Montessori Institute of America, and served on its board as Education Director.

She has been involved in educating Montessori teachers for more than 20 years with the Institute for Guided Studies (IGS). In 2008, she was appointed CEO of this organization. IGS administers Teacher Education Programs including Infant/Toddler, Early Education, Elementary, Adolescent, and Administrator levels of education. Many IGS courses are accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, (MACTE), an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

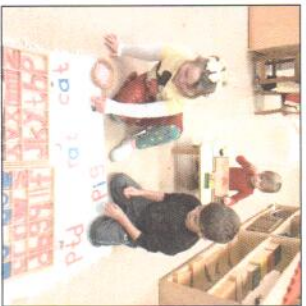
For more information, please contact:

Montessori at Sandy Ford
2931 Sandy Ford Road
Newton, North Carolina 28658
828.294.7478
www.montessoriatandyford.org
501(c)(3) Organization



*A place to
learn and grow*

About the School . . .

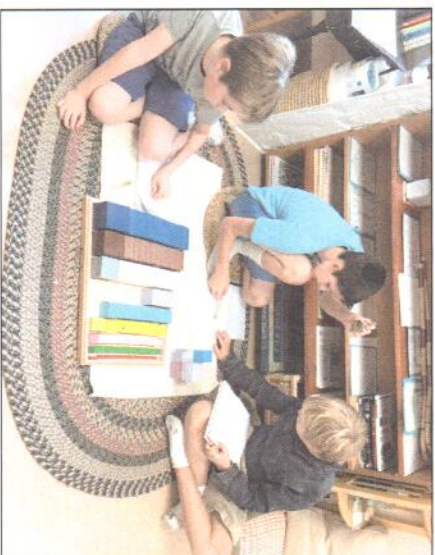


Montessori at Sandy Ford (MSF) is a private, secular learning environment for children ages 3 through 14. Founded in 1981 as Montessori Children's House of Newton, MSF provides education in classrooms specially prepared for Early Childhood (3 - 6 years), Elementary (6 - 9 years), and Junior (9 - 14 years), which afford children the freedom to pursue their interests while fostering respect for diversity and the rights of others.

Maria Montessori discovered that children are naturally eager to explore and learn. A Montessori environment provides activities to meet the needs of children, allowing them to develop at their own pace, to their fullest potential. Children become self-disciplined and motivated, confident and compassionate, decisive and focused, and aware of self and of the environment.



The structured environment includes carefully sequenced materials that enable the child to learn through "hands-on" experiences. Teachers prepare the classrooms; program the activities; offer direction and options; and serve as observers, models, and facilitators. Children in a Montessori environment become responsible, willing and capable participants in their education as they develop self-discipline and experience purposeful learning. They acquire the basis for strong character, moral development, self-confidence, and fulfillment.



Our goals for the children are those on which Montessori education is founded:

- Joy in Learning
- Self-Discipline
- Self-Confidence
- Ability to Choose
- Concentration
- Independence
- Spiritual Appreciation
- Peace
- Social Integration
- Respect for Nature

Montessori at Sandy Ford is an educational community whose mission is:

- To provide an environment that nurtures each individual's intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth;
- To work in partnership with families to guide students in becoming responsible, contributing members of their communities;
- To celebrate diversity and foster respect for life;
- To provide thoughtful, challenging learning opportunities in an atmosphere of cooperation;
- To cultivate a lifelong joy of learning by following Dr. Maria Montessori's practices, philosophy and vision.

Experienced and certified Montessori educators guide students at Montessori at Sandy Ford. The school is acknowledged by Montessori Educational Programs International and by the North Carolina office of Non-Public Instruction, as well as being licensed by the North Carolina Office of Child Development.

MSF accepts children of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin, and does not discriminate on the basis of gender, religion, or physical and mental ability.

