

# What is the Montessori Approach?

*“Education is not filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.” – William Butler Yeats*

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Maria Montessori was one of the most important educators of the 20th century, the originator of classroom practices and philosophies which have had a deep influence on the education of young children the world over ever since.

She was the first woman to graduate from the University of Rome medical school and became interested in education through her work as a doctor. Going on to establish schools for the disadvantaged children of working parents in Rome she approached their education as a scientist, observing children carefully and finding ways to exploit their natural inquisitiveness to achieve beyond expectations.

As her success became more widely recognised she began to travel the world, establishing schools, lecturing about her discoveries and writing many articles throughout her life. She was a true pioneer of putting children at the heart of education.

Montessori observed that children learn best through active engagement creating happy self-motivated learners who form positive images of themselves as confident, successful people. She designed resources to foster independence, the ability to fail and try again and a love for learning. Alongside this she left a legacy about the importance of respect and responsibility in her focus on Grace and Courtesy and being a global citizen.

The Montessori approach is holistic and aims to nourish all facets of an individual. The Montessori approach combines a philosophy of freedom and self-development for children within a meticulously prepared environment and an atmosphere of acceptance and encouragement.

More information about the Montessori classroom can be found here

<https://www.montessori.org.uk/about-us/what-is-montessori/the-montessori-learning-environment>