

	Maria Montessori	
	مؤسسة أنس الوجود التعليمية لذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة وصعوبات التعلم Anas Alwogoud Foundation We Care for special Needs Education	٢٠٠٨

Who is Maria Montessori?

She was the first Italian female physician who graduated from a medical school. She worked at an institute for psychological problems. There she worked with children who were labeled as having emotional problems and labeled mentally restarted. Through her clinical observations she discovered that she could help them physically and spiritually as she could reach them intellectually. She found out that those children could teach and build themselves.



She worked as a psychiatrist for subnormal children. Her colleagues' doctors aimed at curing mumps in order to improve the children's educational capabilities. But Maria disagreed with them. She believed that mental deficiency was a pedagogical (educational) problem rather than a medical one. Then she gave up her university chair and medical practice for teaching children at special needs schools. She started reading and studying books about the different stages of children development. She changed her career as a doctor and joined the psychiatrists and psychologists in studying the early stages of childhood.

Among the pioneers of the Islamic Arabic Civilization were Abn Khaldoon and Abouhamid Algazaly in the 16th century who both agreed with the Hadith sayings that every new born child is like a white blank paper ready to be written on.

The reason we chose Montessori Method

- She aimed at developing the child mentally from a creative educational concept.
- Responding and appreciating the child's thoughts, dreams and imaginations are the most important part in bringing up a child.
- Children must not live isolated, as living among people help them develop their creative and intellectual talents. They learn through their experiences in life, their several attempts and mistakes.
- According to Montessori's method environmental education should be provided. This environment should abide a group of materials and suitable experiences for the different stages of child development. Every stage should have their special educational means.
- According to Montessori's method there is no teacher, but a "directress" who directs and observes the child towards learning opportunities rather than teaches him.
- According to Montessori's method understanding, consciousness and maturity in children are achieved by the help of the directress in order to live normally in life.
- According to Montessori's method the five senses are to be used as means of learning. This is acquired through the Montessori's materials that help develop the child's senses.



Montessori's teaching vision

- Children could learn easily through Montessori materials and this proved success even with ordinary children.
- Montessori schools were called "children's house". In there they provided the child with the suitable environment for his development, maybe better than that presented in an ordinary school.
- The directress at the "children's house" doesn't interfere in the child's work, she just direct without having any influence on him.
- At the "children's house" they work on activities of their own choice at their own pace. They experience a blend of freedom and self-discipline in a place especially designed to meet their developmental needs.
- Directress at the "children's house" helps the child to exercise his senses through intellectual trainings to inspire his mental talents.
- Physical and social playing is also included at "children's house".
- Montessori's method helps the child to have an independent character without causing any mess or affecting negatively on the rights of others.
- Montessori says that the free child is that who depends totally upon himself and never asks for others assistance as long as he could manage alone.
- Montessori refuses the usage of tough aggressive means in teaching children as shouting and giving orders. By this way the child loses his personality and becomes "deaf as a rock".
- Through Montessori's method the directress helps the child to develop his senses in a way to have sincere emotions. She also helps him to have a progressive effective thinking.
- Through Montessori's method we develop both physical and sensory breeding to achieve all goals.

- At "children's house" the child plays, works and move around freely searching for the secrets of the environment surrounding him to solve all the puzzles that he may encounter and understands life around him ea

