



The Primary Program—Ages 3 through 6 years

The Primary Child

Primary children possess a remarkable ability to absorb the world that surrounds them. Maria Montessori believed that the years from three to six are the most critical period for nurturing a child's natural curiosity and for laying the foundation for all future development. This stage of development provides the foundation for all future academic pursuits.

The Primary Program

The goals of the Montessori School of Maui are to foster independence and to support children in moving toward a mastery of self and the environment. The Montessori School of Maui classrooms are prepared environments designed to encourage children to their self-directed discovery of the world. Interest-based activities encourage children to develop a love of learning and trust in their own ability to learn. A wide range of activities engaged the children at levels of ability and maturity, and facilitate the Montessori goals of individualized work, timely progress, independence and social awareness.

School Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Extended Day is available from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at an additional charge.



"Give the child the key and they will unlock the door."

~ Maria Montessori

The Prepared Environment

Fundamental to Montessori theory is the multi-age classroom. Each classroom includes children ages three through six years old. Children may work either individually or in small groups, learning from and sharing with one another. There are four beautiful Primary classrooms, each with up to 24 children, a Montessori trained teacher and a Teacher's Assistant.



"The essential thing is for the task to arouse such an interest that it engages the whole personality. In our schools this moment of healing is not the point of arrival . . . But it is the point of departure, after which 'freedom of action' consolidate and develops the personality."

~ Maria Montessori

Montessori Teacher

The Montessori School of Maui Primary Teacher intensely follows each child, presenting carefully designed lessons and materials on a one-to-one basis as the child is ready. Based on observation and ongoing evaluation of individual needs, the teacher guides the child in learning with specific lessons. Another important function of the teacher is to set reasonable limits and foster responsibility in each child. All of our teachers are Montessori certified professionals.

"The Montessori School of Maui is like entering a Village for Children. It welcomes children to both indoor scholastics and outdoor learning environments that beckon our two sons to join in the excitement of learning. Everyday provides new challenges and motivates them to want to return tomorrow."

Primary and
Elementary Student
Parent

The following areas of exploration are included in our Primary Program:

Practical Life

Primary age children acquire many daily living skills through practical life activities i.e., preparing food, and caring for their classroom environment. These activities also help children extend their powers of concentration and develop coordinated movement.

Sensorial Activities

Through interaction with sensorial materials which isolate one quality—such as color or shape— children experience the world through their senses, in a way that establishes a physical and mental foundation for problem solving and deductive reasoning.

Language Activities

Through a variety of language activities and materials, children become familiar with sounds and symbols and begin the process of writing, which naturally leads to reading.

Mathematics

Our Primary children begin to explore mathematical relationships by manipulating concrete materials—such as number rods—that are designed to isolate a concept and prepare them for abstract reasoning. The goals of the program are for each child to develop a love of numbers, problem-solving strategies, computational skills and confidence in using numbers in everyday life.

Cultural Activities

Art, music, science and geography are integrated into the whole language experience.

Living Classroom

The Montessori School of Maui provides a beautifully landscaped garden as an outdoor classroom for our children. Living plants, animals and hands-on experiences encourage students to establish a relationship with the natural world. The outdoor classroom allows children the opportunity to develop skills in scientific observation and comparison.

Social Activities

In the Montessori classroom, children experience the balance between the freedom of the individual and the concerns of the group. Other social behaviors that flourish in MOMI's program are responsibility for one's own behavior, respect for others, grace and courtesy and care of the environment.

Physical Education

MOMI is different from a traditional school in that children are free to choose activities and move in and out of the classroom. Through natural physical activity, children expend energy and develop large and small muscle coordination.

Celebrations and Traditions

MOMI's celebrations develop a sense of community. Annual events include a classroom Thanksgiving Feast, Kupuna Day and Lei Day festivities.

Food

Carrying their own lunch is an opportunity for children to bring a part of home to school each day. Parents volunteer to provide healthy snacks in the morning. Our Middle School and Elementary students partner in a business venture to provide a hot lunch program for the whole school (with the exception of the Toddlers.) There is an extra charge for this service.

Evaluation

Conferences to discuss each child's classroom experience and development are held twice a year. Students attend conferences with their parents. Parents are also provided with a written Student Progress Report for their child at that time.