



A Montessori School

(Part-1)

By- Gina Matthai

We are delighted that you have chosen to send your child to TLC Montessori Preschool. We have a very special approach here which will feed your child's developing skills and interests at the right times and help him/her to become capable and in control of his/her world.

The method that we use here is very precise and orderly. It was developed by Maria Montessori, a scientist who was also the first lady doctor in Rome.

Tender Loving Care (TLC) runs through every thread of our school's fabric. In an atmosphere of special understanding, love, care and encouragement, teachers guide the wards under their care through each successive level of development and achievement.

Our teachers are special people chosen more for their personal qualities of warmth, empathy, passion and dedication and also of course, for their teaching skills.

The endeavour at TLC is to strengthen every child's ability to the maximum, but never push them beyond their capabilities.

TLC's well-run Montessori laboratory is an amazing sight – children going to each other for help, completing work and putting material back on the shelf, looking up answers in reference books etc. The children at TLC are taught to be calm and orderly, we encourage them to be purposefully involved in a self-chosen activity.

The Montessori laboratory is tidy and attractive with equipment carefully and thoughtfully arranged. Everything is child sized and kept within easy reach. Teachers are encouraging and supportive without being intrusive, and always mindful of the ground rules. There is a selection of educational material arranged in the following curriculum areas:

- ✦ **Exercise of Practical Life**
- ✦ **Sensorial**
- ✦ **Mathematics**
- ✦ **Language, including music**
- ✦ **Cultural Studies – which include Geography and History**
- ✦ **Science**



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Practical life activities make up the foundation of the Montessori programme. The intention is to help a child adapt to his/her environment through some basic skill development trainings like learning to pour their own drinks, carrying trays, cleaning up/sweeping, all with the help of equipment customised for them. These seemingly pedestrian tasks from an adult's point of view are thrilling for a small child whose self-esteem blossoms with mastering every new skill, and helps him/her feel in control of life. Please allow you child to help at home as well!

Your child will also learn the basics of Grace & Courtesy - greeting others, sharing and saying thank you.

Maria Montessori's dressing frames greatly enhance a child's independence and self-esteem as he successfully learns to dress and undress without help.



The Sensorial Montessori material lays the foundation for future learning and assists in the development of perceptual, visual and motor skills and other vital cognitive abilities.

There is a direct relationship between sensorial training and intellectual development. The Pink Towers, Long Rods, Brown Stairs and cylinder blocks, all deal with the concept of size and dimensions. When working with the last two materials, the actual physical activity of carrying them from the shelf to the floor is very beneficial as the child has to exercise balance, coordination and make sensory motor judgements.

The Colour Boxes continue the process of refinement of the child's discriminatory skills as he learns to identify and match colours.

At TLC, we have found that some children are "tactile defensive", that is they are reluctant to experience various textures. Once we become aware of this, we approach this problem with gradual encouragement. When using the Fabric Box, we introduce the most contrasting fabrics first, say lace and leather, and then as the child's tactile sense becomes more refined, other fabrics are gradually introduced.

The child's vocabulary and matching skills are developed alongside his stereognostic sense when he works with the stereognostic bag. The auditory sense is refined through working with sound boxes which can also be useful in early identification of hearing problems.

When working with the children, our teachers at TLC are always mindful of the two key words - patience and flexibility. Patience allows the child to complete tasks independently, while flexibility in the presentation, which leaves room for adaptations, ensures that the child's specific needs are answered.

