

# Discover the difference that a Montessori education can make!



Deciding on the first steps away from home is important to research. You want strong socializing opportunities, in a caring environment that gives your inquisitive child strong life skills and a good educational base. Aspen Hill Montessori programs are designed for independent learners, 8 months through 6 years. Through our West Calgary campuses, we leverage the Montessori methodology to develop the whole child in a child and family-focused community. Our private Learning Centres provide a range of programs from our Nido infant program through to accredited Kindergarten, extended hours care, and year-round learning. We look forward to introducing you to our approach to early childhood education.



A Montessori program...	A play-based program...
Is child-centred and child directed. Children choose activities with guidance based on learning interests.	Is often teacher-directed. A teacher may determine the order and timing of activities for all children.
Is focused on fostering independence and the internal motivation of the child.	Is usually focused on looking after / doing things on behalf of the child.
Can extend into junior high.	Is for children ages 3-6 only.
Provides a beautiful child-sized environment filled with real life items (glass jars, wood trays, flowers, photographs) and natural materials .	Provides a safe-for-children environment with toys, bright primary colours, and imaginary / cartoon images.
Uses standardized and scientifically-proven learning materials that can be found in Montessori programs world-wide.	Uses toys selected by adults, based on what they feel is appropriate for developmental growth.
Offers activities that develop core growth - math, tidying, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, science, reading, writing.	Offers activities that encourage play.
Has standardized terminology, evaluation, and progression of skill markers around the world.	Activities are dependent on the Centre and teacher and can vary day to day.
Is focused on developmental markers to grow the whole child	Is focused on ensuring the child is happy

## How do we know if a Montessori program is right for our child?

- Does your child show interest in learning new concepts, and engage in learning on their own?
- Does your child pursue an activity repeatedly, even if they don't succeed right away?
- Does your child respond eagerly to try when you demonstrate a new skill or object?
- Does your child pursue task-completion when they play (i.e. wants to finish a structure or a puzzle before leaving the activity)?
- Do you encourage your child to do things for themselves, even if it takes longer?
- Do you actively encourage your child's independence, and to move away from your support?
- Is your child willing to take guidance to modify their behavior when asked?
- Does your child show curiosity about the way the world works, and wants to 'try everything'?
- Is your child reaching or exceeding typical 'ages and stages' developmental markers?

If you can say an enthusiastic 'yes' to all of these questions, a more formalized approach to development, such as a Montessori program, could be a good fit for your family and child. If you're not sure, please talk to our staff - we would be happy to share more about the Montessori approach with you.

We look forward to sharing our Centres with your family to see if the Montessori approach is a fit for your child. Book a ZOOM meeting via [admissions@aspenhillmontessori.ca](mailto:admissions@aspenhillmontessori.ca) today!