

Emergent Montessori learning for the engaged child.



Deciding on the first steps away from home is important to research. You want a connected and 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 5.5 years. Through our West Calgary campuses, we leverage the Montessori methodology to develop the whole child in a child and family-focused community. Our privately-funded Early Years Centres provide a range of programs from our Nido infant program through to Grade One preparation, extended hours care, and year-round learning. We look forward to introducing you to our approach to early childhood education.



A Montessori program...	An emergent-based program...
Is child/self-directed, with independent work as the focus. Children choose academic learning activities with guidance, and most activities are seated at tables or on the floor.	Is a blend of child and teacher-directed, with small group work common. Activities may include station work, dress-up, sensory stations, building materials, and more.
Is focused on expanding and believing in the independence of the child.	Is focused on looking after and caring for the child.
Can extend into junior high.	Is for children under 6 only.
Provides a calm child-sized environment filled with academic / educational materials + real life items (glass jars, wood trays, flowers, photographs).	Provides a busy, safe-for-children environment with toys, bright colours, and creative / open-ended sensory material.
Uses standardized academic learning materials that can be found in Montessori programs world-wide.	Uses toys selected by adults, based on what they feel is appropriate for development.
Offers activities that develop academic skill – math, tidying, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, science, reading, writing.	Offers activities that encourage play, creativity, and imagination; academic growth happens through play.
Has standardized terminology, evaluation, and progression of skill markers around the world.	Activities are dependent on the brand / 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 thrive on / look for structure and order to their day?
- Does your child show interest in learning new concepts, and engage in learning on their own?
- Does your child pursue a focused 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)?
- Does your child want to do things for themselves, even if it takes longer?
- Does your child choose seated / calm learning activities on their own when multiple activity options are available?
- Is your child willing to take guidance to modify their behavior when asked?
- Is your child eager and willing to follow multiple step directions to achieve a goal?
- 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 Pre-Application Interview
via admissions@aspenhillmontessori.ca.