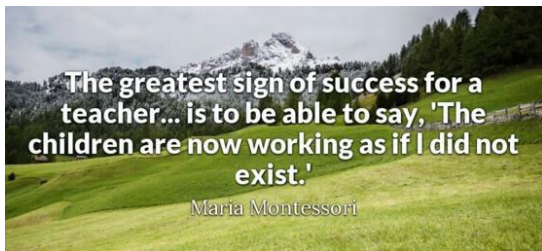


Maria Montessori Influences



The Montessori method of education centres on developing the whole child and allowing a child to lead their learning and development. Respecting the child is at the core of this approach, Montessori classrooms nurture each child's individual strengths and interests. They encourage children to explore their world, and to understand and respect everything

within it. A Montessori environment is carefully planned and prepared to meet the needs of the child and to develop curiosity and independence. At Red Hall these are some of our core values.

A Practical Life

This philosophy of this Montessori concept is based around the understanding that children find joy in activities to prepare them for 'real life'. Maria passionately believes we must prepare children to be a productive, effective and well-functioning person in the world, developing the child's 'whole self'. This is based around the development of fine and gross motor skills, movement, self-regulation, concentration, respect and having good manners, self-esteem and independence. The moment a child starts here in Early Years, we encourage the children to tidy up after themselves, put on their own shoes, coats and waterproofs, select their own resources and to choose to make 'right choices'. This drive for independence, self-care and understanding well-being is developed throughout the whole school. Children learn to manage their behaviour, bake, cook, take assessed risks, problem solve and develop the tools to regulate their own emotions.

Key concepts we LOVE:

- Maria Montessori wrote extensively about the 'Absorbent Mind'. This idea was the basis of her child development theory. The belief that a child is born into the world capable, she places a great deal of value and respect onto the child's ability to drive their own learning and development. As adults we can help a child by giving them many concrete opportunities to experience the world hands on. Later they begin to process abstractly. They will take these concrete experiences and turns them into more abstract ideas. We have continuous provision in EY and KS1 for this reason, to develop this concept.
- The Maria Montessori theory has always believed in the child's ability to reach his potential on his own if given the freedom and the environment in which to develop naturally. This is why we place such emphasis on our classroom environments. Teachers allow independence to explore areas and topics, they know when to intervene to guide the child and when to allow the child the freedom to explore.
- Repetition: Maria believes a child doesn't simply repeat an exercise over and over again for repetition sake. A child repeats to perfect, the reinforce a skill, and to internalise the skill in order understand it at a deeper level. One reason we believe play is so powerful and offer challenge areas in our school.

