

LIFE OF _____
MARIA MONTESSORI
_____ IN DATES





Work of Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori was a pioneer in the field of education who changed the way the world perceives child learning. She became one of the first Italian women to earn a medical degree, which allowed her to combine her medical knowledge with detailed pedagogical research. Her work with children in a psychiatric clinic inspired her to explore new ways to support their education and development.

A few years later, she opened the "Children's House" in Rome, which became the foundation for the Montessori method. This new approach emphasized independence, sensory learning, and customized educational materials that respect the natural development of the child. Montessori expanded her educational theories through books and international training sessions, and her methods were soon adopted worldwide.

Timeline of Montessori's Life

1870 Birth of a Visionary

Maria Montessori was born on August 31, 1870, in Chiaravalle, a small town in the province of Ancona in central Italy. Her birth came at a time when Italy was undergoing a process of unification and modernization, which influenced her upbringing and career. Maria was the only child of Alessandro Montessori, a finance officer, and his wife Renilde Stoppani, who was well-educated and came from a family with academic traditions. Maria's education was encouraged in an academic direction, which was not common for girls at that time. This environment and family background enabled her to pursue her interests and eventually became one of the first women in Italy to earn a medical degree.

1896 Attainment of a Medical Degree

Maria Montessori obtained her medical degree in 1896 from the University of Rome, known as La Sapienza. She became one of the first women in Italy to complete a degree in medicine and obtain a medical diploma. Her decision to study medicine was unconventional and faced many obstacles, including gender biases that affected women's access to higher education at the time. Despite these challenges, Montessori successfully completed her studies and specialized in psychiatry and pediatrics.





1897 From Medicine to Education ———

After obtaining her medical degree, Maria Montessori worked at a psychiatric clinic associated with the university, where she encountered children with mental disabilities. This experience inspired her to pursue further studies and research in education, which eventually led to the development of her pedagogical methods. Montessori continued to deepen her knowledge and skills in education through studies in pedagogy, psychology, and philosophy, laying the groundwork for her innovative educational system.

1907 Inauguration of Casa dei Bambini —

The first "Casa dei Bambini" opened by Maria Montessori on January 6, 1907, in the San Lorenzo district of Rome, was pivotal in developing the Montessori method. This school, initially aimed at caring for young children in a poor urban area while their parents worked, featured a learning environment with child-sized furniture and self-directed educational materials. Here, Montessori implemented her educational philosophy that emphasized respecting a child's natural development and the importance of a prepared environment.

1913 Revision of "The M. Method" ———

In 1913, Maria Montessori was examining the first copies of the new edition of her book "The Montessori Method." This book had become a seminal work, detailing her educational philosophy and methods. The new edition reflected her ongoing research and experiences gained from teaching children in various cultures and environments.



1914 Origin of Cosmic Education ———

After the First World War, Maria Montessori focused on expanding her educational method to children older than six years, developing the "Cosmic Education" curriculum for children aged six to twelve. This program aimed to connect children with universal concepts about the universe and the interdependence of life on Earth, with the goal of fostering responsibility and a willingness to care for the planet. Montessori also adapted educational materials for older children, emphasized the importance of social development and cooperation, and continued to spread her approach through publications and teacher training. This period was crucial for the development of her pedagogical system, making it applicable to a broader age spectrum.

1929 Foundation of the AMI ———

In that year, she founded the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) in Berlin to support the international dissemination of her educational principles. It was established to oversee the training of teachers, the production of Montessori materials, and the maintenance of the integrity of Montessori's educational philosophy.

1939 Exile in Adyar, India

On November 4, 1939, Maria Montessori arrived in Adyar, which is part of the greater Chennai area in India, formerly known as Madras. Montessori traveled to India with her son Mario, and their stay was initially planned to be brief, intended for conducting courses and lectures. However, the outbreak of World War II meant that both remained in India until the end of the war. During this period,



Maria Montessori worked intensively on spreading and adapting her educational philosophy to the local conditions and culture, including training local teachers. Her stay in India significantly influenced the further development of her methods and the spread of her educational principles across Asia.

1946 Visit to a School in London

On November 2, 1946, Dr. Maria Montessori, along with her son Mario Montessori, visited a school in Acton, London. This visit was part of the international spread of the Montessori method following World War II.



1949 Release: "The Absorbent Mind" —

Maria Montessori publishes the book "The Absorbent Mind", one of her most significant and influential works. Released in 1949, during the later period of her career, it compiles a series of lectures she delivered in India. The book focuses on the developmental psychological stage of children from birth to six years, which Montessori describes as a time when children have a unique ability to mentally absorb and adapt to their surroundings.



1951 European Educational Tour —

In 1951, Maria Montessori visited the Gatehouse Montessori School in London. During the post-war years, Montessori was very active, especially in Europe, where she visited various educational institutions that had adopted her pedagogical methods.

1952 Final Journey and Lasting Legacy –

Maria Montessori passed away on May 6, 1952, at the age of 81 in Noordwijk, Netherlands. At that time, Montessori was a recognized and influential figure in the world of education. After World War II, she settled in the Netherlands, with Noordwijk becoming her home and the place where she spent the last years of her life. Here, she continued her work with the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).

Her death was a great loss to the educational community, but her legacy and influence endure. Montessori schools around the world continue to use her methods, which support independent learning, respect for children's natural development, and the creation of environments that motivate children to explore and learn.





This e-book was published by Montessori Institute Prague, AMI training center, on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of Maria Montessori's death. The publication contains a detailed overview of Montessori's main life milestones arranged chronologically by individual dates.

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