

Montessori for All Learners

AN OVERVIEW: MONTESSORI FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Every Child is Special

The number of children with special needs is on the rise.

- Broader definitions and criteria
- Increased information and knowledge
- Narrowing expectations of typical development

Common “Labels”

- Autism spectrum disorder
- Attention deficit hyperactive disorder
- Speech/Language disorder
- Learning disability
- Sensory Processing disorder

Shared Characteristics

- Difficulties with self-regulation
- Gross/fine motor difficulties, self-care skills problems
- Difficulties with social interactions, especially with peers
- Anxiety, depression, self-esteem, and confidence issues

What’s Going On?

An atypical neuro-logical development/growth that impacts

Input → Working Memory → Output

A Child is Not a Label

- Broad categories for understanding concerns for a child
 - mild to severe
 - rarely does a child have characteristics of just one label
- frequency and intensity of behavior is only real difference in children



Montessori Teachers

- ✓ Observe
- ✓ Respect and respond to individual needs
- ✓ Prepare a unique classroom environment



Knowledge of Child Development

- Understanding of child development- typical and atypical
- Plan developmentally appropriate lessons, materials, and activities
- Respect variation in rates of develop across domains

Impact on Social Skills

- Speech and Language- difficulties with communication and expression
- Sensory processing- easily overwhelmed; extreme need for routine and control; easily misinterpret behavior of others
- Motor difficulties- problems with age appropriate skills and behaviors
- Learning difficulties- problems with confidence, and self-esteem

Impact on Academic Progress

- Learns and masters skills, concepts and materials at an individual rate
- May have very narrow interests that effect motivation and initiative
- Slower accomplishments can result in confidence issues



Why Montessori?

- ✓ Respectful environment with adults who understand variation in development
- ✓ Self-paced learning and instruction
- ✓ Multi-age group of students
- ✓ Multi-sensory materials
- ✓ Freedom with structure
- ✓ Grace and courtesy and peace curriculum



Thank you



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