

**Assignment 1.1**

The Montessori Learning approach is to educate children (ages 2 to 6 years and beyond). This approach was developed by an Italian educator and physician Maria Montessori (1870-1952). It is a method of seeing children as they are and of creating environments that promote to the fulfillment of their highest potential – spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual.

The philosophy of the Montessori school is that the success of a child depends on a couple of factors. These factors include: Inner Guidance of Nature, Freedom for Self-Directed Learning, Planes of Development, Prepared Environment, Observation and Indirect Teaching, Normalization, Absorbent Mind, and Work, not play.

Montessori schools also emphasize learning through the senses. Children in Montessori classrooms learn by self-initiated and teach-initiated learning. The physical, emotional, social, aesthetic, spiritual, and cognitive needs and interests of the child are considered as important as his or her own learning.

Montessori classrooms vary from a traditional one because there are multi-age groupings. This means that there may be children from the primary level (ages 2-6) and elementary level (ages 6-12) in the same class. This variety of ages allows for children to learn from each other in a way that supports independent self-directed activities.

To discover more about Montessori schools, visit this site <http://www.montessori.edu>.

**Assignment 1.2**

The second part to this week's discussion covers five subjects found in the modern-day Montessori school. These are: Practical Life, Sensorial, Mathematics, Language, and Cultural Subjects. Review the video samples for each subject and select two to discuss.

After reviewing the videos, start your own thread indicating which learning strategy or strategies are being implemented. Using the text, provide content and quotes to support your explanation (Synectics, Mnemonics, Direct Instruction, Cooperative Learning, Simulations, etc.). Also, explain how these examples support the Montessori Philosophy.

Practical Life	Video link: <a href="#">Practical life – Tie Frames</a>
Sensorial	Video link: <a href="#">Sensorial Video</a>
Mathematics	Video link: <a href="#">Math Video</a>
Language	Video link: <a href="#">Language Video</a>
Cultural Subjects	Video link: <a href="#">Cultural Subject Video</a>

The Practical life – Tie Frames video is demonstrating Mastery Learning, each pupil is allowed to work at his or her own rate, allowed self-initiation and self-direction of learning, and problem solves through process (p 359). These exercises represent the Montessori Control of Movement teaching method.

The Math video demonstrates Advance Organization and Direct Instruction because the students first learn their numbers from 0 to 9 in advance of performing the task (p253) and then are shown by the teacher how to perform the task (p375). This would also be an example of the Montessori Control of Movement learning philosophy as well as Care of the Environment since students are instructed to return the spindles to the box when they are done with the exercise.