



# LEWINSVILLE MONTESSORI

## What does the Research Say?

We can tell you that Montessori education works, but the proof comes from research which you can go through below and there is a very clear benefit to Montessori education in many different areas.

Lillard, A.S., "[Preschool Children's Development in Classic Montessori, Supplemented Montessori, and Conventional Programs](#)," *Journal of School Psychology* 50:379-401 (June 2012)

Angeline Lillard examines the impact of Montessori implementation fidelity. Her study found that children in classroom with high fidelity implementation showed significantly greater school- year gains on outcome measures of executive function, reading, math, vocabulary, and social problem-solving, than children in low fidelity or conventional classrooms.

Rathunde, K., "[Understanding Optimal School Experience: Contributions From Montessori Education](#)," *National Society for the Study of Education*, Volume 113, Issue 1, pp. 253-274.

This chapter discusses nine characteristics of Montessori education in relation to various theoretical perspectives on education and development. The first three characteristics discussed—freedom of choice, eliminating grades, and learning by doing—are examined in relation to contemporary theories of motivation and education. Three lesser known characteristics—deep concentration, prepared environments, and habits of self-regulation—are discussed in the context of the flow theory of optimal experience. Finally, three facets of Montessori education that are perhaps the least understood and recognized—movement, aesthetic order, and the importance of nature—are considered in light of emerging perspectives on embodied knowledge. Examples of how each characteristic can be applied in the classroom are drawn from the author's observations and research in Montessori middle schools.

Lillard, A.S. & Else-Quest, N., "[Evaluating Montessori Education](#)," *Science* 131: 1893-94 (Sept. 29, 2006).

Researchers compared Montessori students with students in other school programs, and found that 5-year-old children who completed the three-year cycle in the Montessori preschool program scored higher on both academic and behavioral tests than the control group. The study also found that 12-year-old Montessori students wrote more sophisticated and creative stories and showed a more highly developed sense of community and social skills than students in other programs.

Lillard, A.S., [Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius](#), New York: Oxford UP, 2005.

A comprehensive review of the scientific literature that demonstrates how current research validates Dr. Montessori's observations about how children learn, particularly with regard to movement and cognition, the detrimental effect on motivation of extrinsic rewards, the beneficial effect of order in the environment, and the academic and emotional benefits of freedom of choice.

Showing why Montessori education works is quite an easy task, based on all the evidence found, so if you've ever been doubtful about the effectiveness of it, then we suggest you visit a Montessori school and take a look for yourself.