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## Admissions

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Harbour Oaks welcomes children ages 2-9, from all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Priority is given to returning students, siblings, and transferring Montessori children. Spaces for new children are limited. Applications must be submitted no later than February 15th.

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## Programs

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*"The most important period of life is not the age of university studies but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six. For that is the time when Man's intelligence itself, his greatest implement, is being formed."*

Dr. Maria Montessori

### Pre-Primary Classes (2-3 years)

Central to the Montessori philosophy is a deep respect for oneself, for others, and for the world we live in. In order to promote the self-esteem from which this respect grows, many opportunities are provided for the toddler to be self-sufficient and successful in the classroom. The toddler community's goal is to create an environment that will meet the needs to the toddler child by encouraging independence in a secure and loving environment.

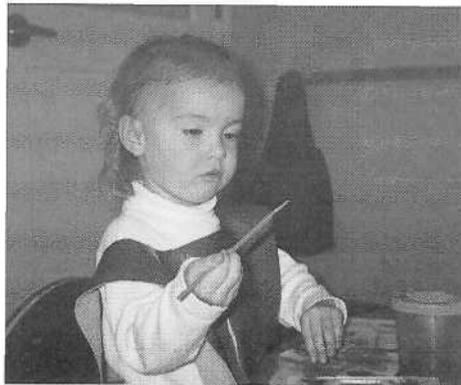
### Primary Classes (3-6 years)

Harbour Oaks provides a prepared environment to meet the needs of the child. Children work individually and cooperatively with materials that engage their curiosity through the senses. Each child has freedom to explore and to observe. The materials are scientifically designed to engage the child

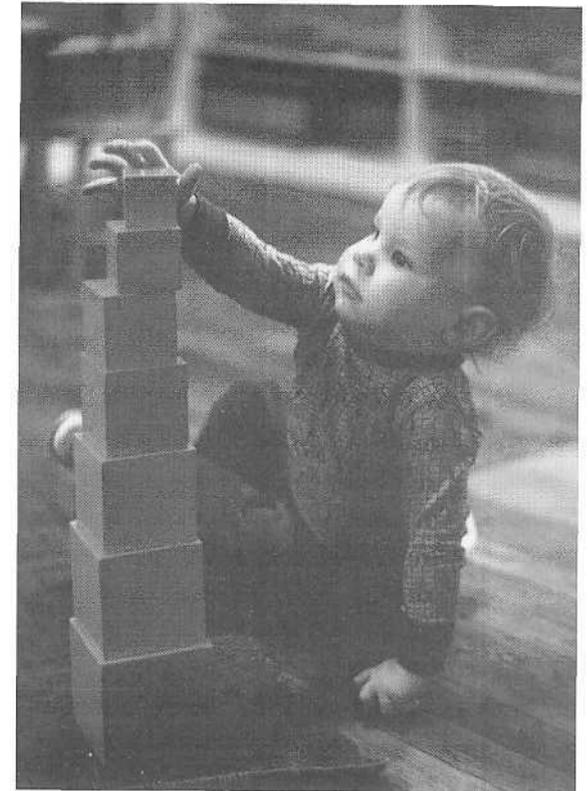
with math and language, writing and reading, art and music—the tools of abstract reasoning and communication, and the basis of creative imagination and self-directed learning.

### Lower Elementary (6-9 years)

This program offers a high degree of individualized instruction and work. The lessons are concrete at first; then the child is shown how to work in the abstract. Many unique Montessori materials are used to help the child make this transition. The children do not just learn basic skills; they learn to apply those skills in order to expand their knowledge. In the process, each child uses and develops a precious possession: his/her reasoning mind. The children are given lessons in many areas not necessarily included in the standard school curriculum, and exploration and research can take the child into much greater depth than is achieved in a standard classroom. Much of the work is done spontaneously; therefore, a child's knowledge is more likely to become a part of himself/herself. Each child is helped to integrate various aspects of the curriculum, so that he/she can better see relationships between physical, biological, and cultural phenomena.



Megan in Pre-Primary Class 2000



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## School Mission

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We at Harbour Oaks Montessori are dedicated to providing a safe and healthy environment while nurturing a child's natural desire to learn, to teach valuable skills, and to instill the love of learning that will last for a lifetime. We follow the educational philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori and are affiliated with the American Montessori Society.

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## What is Montessori?

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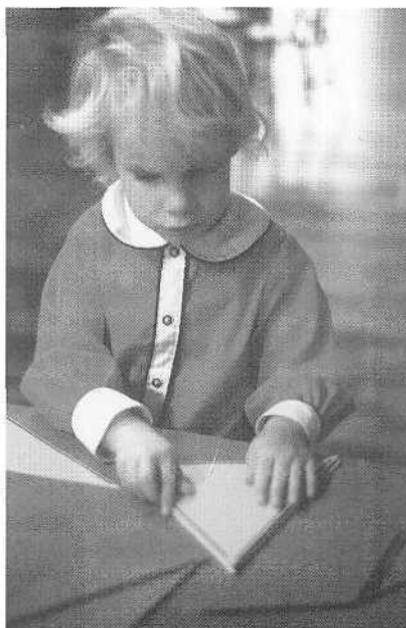
Montessori is an educational system designed to aid children in the development of intelligence and independence. The system was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian educator and physician, in the early 1900's. Thousands of schools throughout the world use the Montessori Method. Montessori educators establish a special environment to meet the needs of children. The children learn through activities that involve exploration, manipulation, order, repetition, abstraction, and communication.

Children from infancy through the age of 6 develop mentally through their senses. Thus, Montessori educators encourage children to use their senses of touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste to explore and manipulate materials in their immediate environment.



The Montessori Method encourages independence, self-reliance, and clear judgment. The classrooms are large and function as mini-communities, which promotes learning and development. The teacher provides individual attention, helping each child progress at his/her own rate. Each child's day is designed to be satisfying, challenging, and well-integrated. In Montessori, everything has been prepared for children out of respect for the role they play in their own development.

A Montessori classroom is a multi-age setting in which children learn from each other and *because of* each other. Older children reinforce their knowledge as they share it with younger children. Everyone learns to take responsibility for themselves, the group, and the environment.



Katy in Montessori 1973  
*Owner of Harbour Oaks*



Anna in Montessori 1973  
*Owner of Harbour Oaks*

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## History and Expansion

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Harbour Oaks Montessori school was formed in 1996 by a family of Montessorians who felt a deep commitment to the true methods of Dr. Maria Montessori. The owners attended a Montessori school through elementary. Their parents are both retired Montessori teachers who started the first Montessori school in Maine. In 1997, a group of dedicated parents formed a non-profit PTA. The primary purpose was to support Harbour Oaks in its goal to create an optimal Montessori environment for its children and to assist the school's academic and social objectives. The waiting list for new children grew each year as parents began to recognize what a true Montessori program entailed. In 1999, a second primary class was opened on Lenora Church Road while plans for a custom built building were underway. In August 2000, the building on Athens Hwy. was completed. At capacity, it will house 1 pre-primary class, 3 primary classes, and 2 elementary classes.