

How Montessori education teaches children self-discipline

Montessori education is over a century old but it is still entirely relevant to today's world

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the idea that the children choose what they work on each day. Presumably this is because they assume that if children are given such autonomy, then they do no work at all, all hell breaks loose and you are reduced to a rowdy cacophony of learning-less rebellion.

This is, however completely wrong. Because if you see a Montessori class in action, you witness something genuinely incredible happening; something which seems almost transcendental.

At Discovery Montessori Academy, you will find pockets of children all deeply engrossed in various tasks. Some will be sitting at desks, others on the floor; some will be sitting around a teacher, others working away independently.

Aside from the fact that they are all occupied by myriad different tasks in apparent harmony, the other thing that will strike you is the noise – or rather than lack of it. Because there is no rowdy cacophony. Despite the fact that most are working essentially unsupervised they have not taken the



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The fact that the children can work so well without constant supervision is probably due in part to the fact that they have chosen what to study and in another part due to the style of learning. Montessori is a very demonstrative form of learning. Maths is done with an abacus or counters and checkers. English is aided by word type symbols and drawing pictures with annotations.

“Montessori lessons are hands-on and active. Our students don’t listen passively and memorise with the goal of scoring well in exams,” says Gloria Law, principal of Discovery Montessori Schools (Discovery Bay and Central).

Another key element of Montessori education is allowing the children to learn at their own speed, instead of being dictated by the class as a

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to engage and work alongside them as a guide.

“Children at DMS can work on a lesson for as long as they need. We don’t like schedules, as we believe in following the child,” says Law.

Visit [Discovery Montessori Schools](http://www.childrenworks.net/) [<http://www.childrenworks.net/>] to learn more about its Montessori curriculum.

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