

# Maria Montessori

compiled by Kara Dixon



Born in 1870 in the town of Chiaraville, in the province of Ancona, in Italy.

Attended Medical School at the University of Rome.

Maria was the first woman to graduate from Medical School in Italy. She graduated top in her class. She also received dual honors for her specializations in Pediatrics and Psychiatry.

She traveled around the world giving lectures. She also studied the theories of Jean Itard and Edouard Seguin. This led her to study children more indepth.

She then became the Director of the Orthophrenic School at the University of Rome. There she concluded that there was a need for stimulation, purposeful activity, and promotion of self-esteem while educating.

Her disabled students were able to pass average sixth grade standard tests.

In 1907, Dr. Montessori opened the first “Casa Dei Bambini” or Children’s House. This revolutionized the way children were taught. She taught the children responsibilities and practical, everyday living skills. Doing this gave them a sense of independence and self-respect.

Some of her teaching methods were spontaneous behavior. She said that she studied her children and they taught her how to teach them. She focused on the individual. She also used manipulatives in the classroom. Dr. Montessori also studied the “sensitive period.” This included sensory-motor activities such as: touch, taste, smell, see, hear, and emotional well-being.

She also studied the children’s surrounding environment. She thought that the environment should be child-friendly. She was the first to have child’s sized tables and chairs. She also had the windows, shelves, and sinks lowered. She also had several other things that were child-sized.

During her career, Dr. Montessori wrote numerous books and pamphlets. Some of them include; The Montessori Method, Pedagogy and Anthropology, Dr. Montessori’s Own Handbook, and The Advanced Montessori Method.

Maria was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1948.

Dr. Montessori’s schools are spread throughout the entire world; from the United States, Spain, and Sri Lanka, to Pakistan, and India.

Maria Montessori died in 1952 in Noorwijk, Netherlands

Here is an excellent web-site to find information on Maria Montessori, her method, and what schools are available throughout the world now : [www.montessori.org](http://www.montessori.org)