

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MONTESSORI METHODOLOGY IN THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the role and significance of the Montessori methodology developed by Maria Montessori in the development of preschool children. The theoretical foundations, pedagogical principles and practical aspects of the methodology are considered. Also, its impact on the sensory, speech, intellectual, social and personal development of children is highlighted based on scientific sources. According to the results of the study, the Montessori approach is an effective pedagogical system for ensuring the independence, creativity and socialization of children in preschool age.

**Keywords:** Montessori methodology, preschool education, developmental environment, independence, sensory education, inclusive approach.

**Introduction**

Preschool age is one of the most important stages of human life, and it is during this period that the main psychological and social characteristics of the individual are formed. In the modern education system, the use of methods that are consistent with the natural developmental needs of children is an urgent issue. One of the systems that gives the child a primary place in the history of pedagogy is the Montessori methodology. This methodology was developed by the Italian doctor and educator Maria Montessori at the beginning of the 20th century and is based on the laws of the natural development of the child. Today, the Montessori methodology is widely used in many countries of the world and is recognized as an innovative pedagogical technology in the preschool education system.

The theoretical foundation of the Montessori method is based on the idea of the child's "absorbent mind". According to Montessori, between the ages of 0-6 the child absorbs the environment not consciously, but naturally. She also put forward the concept of "sensitive periods". These periods are considered favorable periods for the child to quickly and easily master certain skills. For example:

- Sensitive period for speech development
- Period of tendency to order
- Period of development of motor activity

Montessori pedagogy is based on humanistic ideas and is built on respect and trust in the child. There are basic principles of the Montessori method. They include:

**1. Respect for the child.** In this case, the child is perceived as an independent person. The teacher acts as a guide, not a commanding one.

**2. Free choice.** The child independently chooses his activities. This process develops internal motivation.

**3. Prepared developmental environment.** In Montessori groups, the environment is specially organized. The equipment is placed at a height appropriate for the child. Each material has a purposeful and didactic value.

**4. Individual approach.** Each child develops at his own pace. The educational process is adapted to individual needs.



The importance of sensory development. Sensory education plays a central role in the Montessori methodology. Through special didactic materials, the child: distinguishes colors, distinguishes shape and volume, perceives sound and weight, and feels texture. Sensory development is the basis for the development of thinking. Research shows that the richness of sensory experience in preschool is associated with subsequent academic success.

**Intellectual development.** Montessori materials provide a transition from concrete experience to abstract thinking. For example, with the help of mathematical materials, a child learns the concept of numbers by seeing, touching, and feeling them. This process forms logical thinking, analysis, and problem-solving skills.

**Speech development.** In the Montessori method, speech development is carried out through special activities. Activities such as working with letters, distinguishing sounds, and composing stories increase children's vocabulary. An environment of free communication supports the development of social speech.

**Social and emotional development.** In Montessori groups, children of different ages work together. This develops cooperation, mutual assistance, responsibility, and empathy. The child strengthens his self-confidence through independent activity.

**Montessori methodology and inclusive education.** The Montessori method is consistent with the principles of inclusive education. An individual approach, free choice, and a developing environment create favorable conditions for children with disabilities.

With the help of special materials, each child can work according to his own abilities. This ensures equality and justice in education.

In recent years, a number of scientific studies have been conducted on the effectiveness of the Montessori methodology. The results of the study show that children raised in a Montessori environment have a high level of independence. It has been found that they are socially active and have developed problem-solving skills.

**Practical significance.** The use of the Montessori methodology in preschool educational organizations increases the quality of education. It serves to support the natural development of the child. It strengthens the role of the educator as an observer. The methodology also meets the requirements of a modern competency-based approach.

In conclusion, the Montessori methodology is an effective pedagogical system that ensures the comprehensive development of preschool children. It develops independence, creativity and social activity, relying on the natural needs and interests of the child. The widespread introduction of this methodology into preschool educational practice serves to improve the quality of education and strengthen the person-centered approach.

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