

MONTESSORI HISTORY (CONTINUED)

In July 1974, after several years of searching, 8.5 acres of land on Mt. Hope Road was purchased as the site for a future Montessori school. A special use permit was obtained from Meridian Township, and the Development Campaign that had begun earlier in the year was expanded. The school opened its doors to students on January 6, 1976.

The school continued its pattern of growth by expanding the elementary program and opening an addition to the existing building on Sunday, May 3, 1981. Almost ten years later the west wing was added to house a toddler program and beautiful multi-purpose room. January of 1990 marked the opening of the toddler program. In 2003, a second toddler room and new entryway were added.

Today, The Montessori Radmoor School enrolls 160 children from ages 18 months to 12 years of age. The Toddler program, three Preschool programs and an Elementary program for ages 6-12 years utilizes the Montessori philosophy to cultivate and motivate from within the child, his or her own natural desire to learn.

Although Dr. Montessori died in 1952, her work continues. We are proud to share in the dream of Dr. Montessori, along with the close to five thousand private and approximately two hundred public Montessori schools in the United States. Montessori schools exist around the world in Russia, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, South Africa, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mexico, Colombia, India and many other countries.



MONTESSORI RADMOOR SCHOOL

Ph 517.351.3655 | Fx 517.351.3957
2745 East. Mt. Hope | Okemos, MI 48864
www.okemosmontessori.com

Montessori History



The Montessori Radmoor School, founded in 1968, practices the philosophy of education started by Dr. Maria Montessori. Maria Montessori was born in Italy in 1870, where she became the first female physician in Italy upon her graduation from medical school in 1896. In her medical practice, her clinical observations led her to analyze how children learn; how they build themselves from what they find in their immediate environment.

In 1906, she accepted the challenge to work with a group of sixty children in the San Lorenzo district of Rome. It was there she founded the first “Children’s House”. What ultimately became the Montessori methods of

education developed there, based upon Montessori’s scientific observations of these children’s almost effortless ability to absorb knowledge from their surroundings, as well as their tireless interest in manipulating materials. Every piece of equipment, every exercise, every method Montessori developed was based on what she observed children to do “naturally” by themselves, unassisted by adults. *Children teach themselves.* This simple but profound truth inspired Montessori’s life-long pursuits of educational reform, methodology, psychology, teaching, and teacher training—all based on her dedication to furthering the self-creating process of the child.

As the first Montessori school in Mid Michigan, in 1968 The Montessori Preschool was held in an Okemos church with a beginning enrollment of 18 children. In 1969, two more preschool classes were organized and the school was moved to larger quarters at St. John’s East. An early elementary class was added to the program in the fall of 1973.

