

Montessori Math

Thinking back to math class, we all remember the hours of memorizing flash cards and multiplication tables. Not fun. But learning math doesn't have to be a struggle against boredom, and it shouldn't be. Children naturally love to learn, and Montessori education can keep that spark alight in a fun and engaging manner.

Maria Montessori concluded that children learn the best with concrete, hands-on activities, and learning math should be no different. Children can't completely grasp abstract ideas until they fully comprehend the physical processes of math, which is why memorization of numbers and equations only leads to confusion and frustrations. Instead of numbers and worksheets, the Montessori classroom houses materials such as these:



IKM students hard at work!

While infants may not be able to count, they can still develop their math skills. By comparing objects and amounts, they understand the concept of "more" and "less". By observing the organization surrounding their life, they can quickly catch on to patterns. Toddlers learn with materials such as wooden blocks to help them understand concepts of quantity and dimensions. By the time these students reach primary school, they comprehend the relation between concrete amounts and numbers. All four mathematical operations come as second nature, counting from zero to nine is as easy as counting to the thousands, and decimals are a piece of cake. All four mathematical operations come as second nature.

Ultimately, learning math should promote critical thinking, instead of memorization. Even though we often judge comprehension and ability with tests and answers, true comprehension stems from deducing the logical processes behind each concept.