

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHOOSING A MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Since the word "Montessori" is not trademarked, it cannot be assumed that all schools that have a Montessori name are truly that. For parents who seek an authentic Montessori education for their child, we want to provide you with information that will contribute to an informed decision.

The following sites will help parents find an AMS or AMI Member School in their area:

<https://amshq.org> • American Montessori Association Member Schools

<https://amiusa.org> • Association Montessori International Schools

AMS school listings have additional information pertaining to the School's Membership Level. The *Pathway 6 Level* ensures all Classroom Lead Guides hold accredited Montessori Credentials and adhere to the Core Components of Montessori Education.

Once you have your list of Montessori Schools, visit the school, and ask if you can schedule a classroom observation.

At your school visit, ask:

- Are all lead guides Montessori credentialed through an AMS or AMI training center?
- Does your school require additional teacher requirements such as Bachelors/Master's degrees?
- Does each classroom have a full complement of Montessori materials? (Authentic Montessori curriculum, all durable, mostly wood)
- If you are interested in starting your child as a Toddler, does your School have a Montessori Toddler program (with credentialed toddler teacher), or a daycare program?

While touring a school, it is easy to feel the vibe and the environment. Is it child-centered, peaceful and inviting?

If doing a classroom observation, ask for guidelines to help see what to look for in an authentic Montessori Environment. Ask yourself if you would like to be a student here. If you like it, so will your child.

After your visit/observation:

- Take a few minutes to have questions answered.
- Make sure you receive a Visitor Information Packet and the School Website address to find out as much as you can about the School.