

Montessori and Peace

What is peace? Peace is freedom from disturbance, quiet and tranquility. It is a goal that can be attained through common accord by people both at home and in the school environment. Maria Montessori was an advocate for peace among people during her life time. She used the power of education as a tool to eliminate war. Promoting peace was a huge part of Montessori's career. One of her famous quotes was *“Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education”*.

Montessori school is a foundation of peace right from the moment the kids step into the school. The environment is quiet and peaceful and welcoming, they are greeted warmly by their teachers who come down to their level. Teachers and kids walk in quiet shoes for the sake of peace and to avoid distractions.

Teachers promote peace by creating a peaceful environment for the kids. There is usually a *“peaceful zone”* where a table is set and a child can go and sit quietly to ease any sadness or frustration from his or her peers without being interrupted. Teachers also advocate zero tolerance to bullying. She introduces ground rules at the beginning of the year for acceptable behavior.

Peace is also taught when studying geography, history, and other cultures by emphasizing respect for diversity of traditions and customs found around the world.

Finally, teachers are best role models. They show peace by not arguing with one another in the presence of kids, they should not argue with parents, speak respectfully to one another, shouldn't gossip, show kindness always because the children are watching every move they make.