1. What is the history of the Montessori method?

2. What were Maria Montessori’s observations about how children learn?

3. How is a Montessori classroom different from a traditional day care or classroom?
4. Why are materials stored in baskets on shelves?

5. What is the role of the teacher in the Montessori classroom?

6. What are sensitive periods?

7. Why are natural materials used in Montessori classrooms?

8. What are the main curricular areas in the elementary level of Montessori?

9. Explain a three-period lesson used in Montessori teaching.

10. How long do children stay in each level of Montessori?
1. What is the history of the Montessori method?

   100 years ago, Italy’s first female physician Maria Montessori inspired a movement, which enabled children to teach themselves through sensory-rich and hands-on materials and through nurture and love.

2. What were Maria Montessori’s observations about how children learn?

   Dr. Montessori observed that young people learn best engaged in purposeful activity rather than being fed information.

3. How is a Montessori classroom different from a traditional day care or classroom?

   Children are free to explore and move around
   Use floor beds instead of cribs
   Little tables and chairs instead of high chairs
   Teachers come down to the children’s level
   Use texture - hard and soft surfaces
   Work stored in baskets on shelves
4. Why are materials stored in baskets on shelves?

*Work is stored in baskets to teach children a sense of order and allows children to see the works that are available. When things are stored in a toy box, children usually will dump the whole thing out just to see what’s in the bottom.*

5. What is the role of the teacher in the Montessori classroom?

*The job of the teacher is not to be the main focus of what the children are looking at. The teacher is to be a guide to the child, sets goals with the child, give lessons to groups of children, and observe to make sure children understand what was presented to them.*

6. What are sensitive periods?

*Sensitive periods are when a child is very interested in a topic and it’s all they want to do. It is when a child is allowed to take the time that they need to feed their inner need that they have at that time.*

7. Why are natural materials used in Montessori classrooms?

*Materials are made of wood so the child feels a connection to nature.*

8. What are the main curricular areas in the elementary level of Montessori?

- Practical life
- Sensorial
- Math
- Language
- Geography
- Time

9. Explain a three-period lesson used in Montessori teaching.

*For example, when teaching shapes:*

1. Instructor names and points to each shape.
2. Instructor asks child to point to each shape as he or she names them.
3. Instructor points to a shape, child names the shape.

10. How long do children stay in each level of Montessori?

*Three years. By the end of the three years, the oldest children help the younger students and can demonstrate to others what they have learned.*