



Cycle Two (6 – 9 years)

Cycle Three (9 – 12 years)

Montessori Education for primary children is called Cosmic Education. It is a holistic education with a vision of all in the universe being connected and interrelated. Holistic in its approach, it fosters the child's social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.

Cosmic Education is a lively and dynamic education. Children are active learners who are key agents in their own education. Each day, every child has a multitude of opportunities to explore and follow his/her passions whether that is in the area of science, art or else. The access to a broad curriculum offers an abundance of opportunities for the child to think and act for him/herself.

The curriculum is a detailed series of presentations or 'keys' that serve as opportunities to capture children's interest and to enable them to find out things for themselves and for them to follow their own unique path. There are presentations and opportunities to work on the following inter-related all inclusive subjects:

- Astronomy
- Geology
- Geography
- Biology
- History
- Language
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Physical Education and Health
- Italian
- Philosophy

As children enter this stage of their development (about 6 years of age) several changes in children become apparent. They increasingly become explorers of the mind, explorers of the abstract world of thoughts and ideas. The children's innate curiosity goes from questions about 'what' to questions about 'why' and 'how'. They often have an abundance of questions about the origins of the universe, the origins of life, the origins of humanity, the origins of civilization, how society works, how the universe and all that's within it works.

The power of the imagination develops rapidly at this age enabling children to visualise across time and space, to explore beyond the here and now.

Children of this age become increasingly social and enjoy working with partners and in groups so much so that it is often said that at this stage they develop a 'herd instinct'. This development leads to increased interest in being part of a community, social organisation, morality, religion and the differences between cultural groups.

Another characteristic of this age is that the children gradually become more physically able. This added to their expanding interests and what Maria Montessori called an adventurous spirit that leads children to increased interest in museums and zoos and a wide range of other excursions for them to explore the society and the world that they live in. In effect, the world becomes their classroom. Also being more physically able, if the children are given the opportunity and support, they also become more interested in helping out in the adult world. In short the primary child is characterized by:

- Intellectual curiosity
- A reasoning mind
- Imagination
- A sense of justice
- Identification with groups
- Increased physical capacity

Through their explorations children are able to develop a sense of appreciation for the world around them. Through their work they are also able to develop a sense of gratitude towards humanity for its contributions to the world in which we live. The children's work also enables them to develop their skills, interests and outlook as well as preparing them well for high school and for their life beyond it.