



Bilingual Casa Program - Philosophy & Outcomes

Between the ages of 3 and 5, children undergo a process of constructing and defining themselves. They are developing a sense of order and they actively seek to explore, change and master their many experiences. The Montessori Casa program at Emerson Academy shapes this process by exposing our students to specific materials that aid in their ability to absorb and retain a vast amount of knowledge – including the ability to learn a new language – by way of natural, enjoyable processes. At the same time, we provide students with opportunities to teach and learn from *each other* by cooperating, sharing and communicating with classmates of varying ages and abilities.

We have created a bilingual environment that fosters not only your child's language development in *both* English and French, but that also fuels their appetite for learning in a way that will last well into their elementary years with us. Furthermore, every teacher at Emerson Academy is committed to giving your child the life skills to reason, communicate and behave confidently and ethically in the world beyond our walls.

Emerson Academy Bilingual Casa Program (3 – 5 years old)

French/English Casa Montessori Curriculum at a Glance

Sensorial: Casa sensorial materials give your child experience in perceiving distinctions between similar and different things. Later, students learn to identify, relate and distinguish key qualities perceived through the senses such as color, dimension, texture, temperature, volume, pitch, weight and taste. Precise terms such as loud/soft, long/short, rough/smooth and sweet/savoury are then attached to these sensorial experiences to make the world even more meaningful.

Math: The Montessori mathematical materials are beautifully designed, sequential materials that guide the child from exploration of basic concepts using concrete materials to full internalization and abstraction of more difficult mathematical ideas. Initial activities explore the concepts of quantity and symbols. Children are then introduced to the decimal system using the golden bead materials - a child can concretely feel and see the difference between what 1 feels like and what 1000 feels like, before moving on to abstract mathematical concepts and operations.

Practical Life: Building on your child's natural desire to seek order and independence, we engage them in precise activities which challenge students to concentrate, work at their own pace, and complete work independently, which results in feelings of pride and confidence.

Language: Unlike traditional educational systems, Montessori classrooms first introduce the *sounds* letters make (rather than the name of the letter), in order to facilitate early reading. Once your child learns a few individual sounds, they then put the sounds together to make their first words in English and in French. Children also trace letters with their fingers while learning the sound the letter makes, which prepares them to write.

Culture: Geography, biology, botany, zoology and art are presented to the children and reinforced as integrated topics in the curriculum. Children learn about people and cultures in other countries with an attitude of respect and admiration, and through familiarity, they come to feel connected to the global human family. Similarly, lessons and experiences with nature inspire a reverence for all life, which in turn instill character traits such as empathy, responsibility and accountability.

THE EMERSON EFFECT

To choose a private education for your child means that you are investing in their future. At Emerson Academy we take this investment very seriously. Our idea of a quality bilingual curriculum goes above and beyond education. It's about creating that bright future for them by design each and every day.

Our Casa classrooms are beautiful in their simplicity, orderly, and provide the freedom for each child to work according to their individual skills & interests.

Each classroom operates on the principle of achieving excellence. We cultivate positive, "can-do" attitudes, to create strong minds, strong character and strong bodies without limits.

Through laughter, love and commitment, your child's experience in the Casa program will be the perfect jump start to a future of academic and social success!



Bilingual Montessori and Private Elementary School

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