**Core Components of Montessori Educational System**

**Is this list complete? Please, add those components, which are missing, according to you.**

**1 TRAINED MONTESSORI TEACHERS**

**2 THE MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM**

**4 CHILD-DIRECTED WORK**

**Trained Montessori Teachers**

Montessori teacher understands the importance of enabling children to develop naturally. The teacher observes children within a specific age range and introduces them to challenging and developmentally appropriate lessons and materials based on observations of each child’s unique interests, abilities, and social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

A trained Montessori teacher is competent not only in Montessori theory and philosophy, but also in the accurate and appropriate use of Montessori materials. S/he has observational skills to guide and challenge her/his students, and the leadership skills necessary for fostering a nurturing environment that physically and psychologically supports learning.

**The Multi-Age Classroom**

In Montessori schools, multi-age groupings enable younger children to learn from older children and experience new challenges through observation. Older children reinforce their own learning by teaching concepts they have already mastered, while developing leadership skills and serving as role models. Because each student’s work is individual, children progress at their own pace; there is cooperation rather than competition between the ages. This arrangement mirrors the real world, in which individuals work and socialize with people of all ages and dispositions. In a Montessori classroom, students work together in mixed-age groupings specific to the developmental stages for which Montessori education is based.

**Child-Directed Work**

Montessori education supports children in choosing meaningful and challenging work that captures their interest, leading to engagement, intrinsic motivation, sustained attention, and a sense of responsibility to oneself and others. This child-directed work is supported by the design and flow of the Montessori classroom, which is created to ignite each child’s curiosity and to provide the opportunity to work in calm, uncluttered spaces either individually or with peers.