

About the Author



Angeline Stoll Lillard was a Montessori child, took Montessori training, and then became a Montessori parent. An interest in child development research led her to a doctorate in Psychology from Stanford University in 1991, after which she became established as one of the leading developmental psychologists of her generation, receiving the American Psychological Association's Boyd McCandless Award in 1999. She is currently a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia. Recently she returned to the issue of how scientific research bears on Montessori principles, and *Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius* is the result. Impeccably researched and highly readable, her book is a must-read for all parents interested in considering educational alternatives for their child.

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Why Montessori?

8 Evidence-Based Principles for Optimal Education



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Scientific research has shown that:

- Cognition is optimized when movement is consistent with thinking.
- We learn best when we are interested in what we are learning about.
- Extrinsic rewards reduce motivation and level of performance once the rewards are removed.
- People thrive when they feel a sense of choice and control.



- We learn best when our learning is situated in meaningful contexts.
- Children can learn very well from and with peers; after age 6 children respond well to collaborative learning situations.



- Children thrive on order, routine, and ritual.
- Certain adult ways (counseled by Montessori) are associated with better child outcomes.



TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about about the scientific research behind these principles and how they are implemented in a Montessori classroom, read Angeline Stoll Lillard's

Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius, Oxford University Press, 0195168682. **\$35/\$28:00**

Photographs by An Vu.



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