

# Making Montessori what it's not!

## The case against woke Montessori.

The woke agenda is not a Montessori agenda because it violates a foundational tenet of Montessori – meeting the child's needs. Woke is a superimposed adult agenda.

ABAR – anti-bias, anti-racism violates the primary educational construct of Montessori – observation.

If you observe you will note that children don't see color and to teach them about racism is to create a chaos and create a problem that does not exist. Again, violating a basic principle of Montessori – against teaching a negative.

To teach racism is to undo and to demonstrate no confidence in a very basic tenet of Montessori – Grace and Courtesy. If you “do” your Montessori job effectively, Grace and Courtesy leaves little room for the flourishing of racism.

The concept of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is meaningless in a Montessori environment.

Equity has no foundation in Montessori because the whole premise of Montessori is “individualized” – not coming out the same or equal. To focus on equity is to return us to an educational platform that does not meet the child's needs and does not embrace individualization.

How far one goes in Montessori (and life) is not based on external factors such as race, sex, or anything else but is based on the individual DNA of the learner and the excellence of the environment and program from which they are launched. The one major external factor is the question of time which a Montessori child is given in abundance (in accordance with the philosophy.) And time produces individual excellence, not equity. Excellence is not perfection – neither in the learner, the

environment, the school, or the society but provides a base for achievement and advancement.

Inclusion is a concept that is handled, again, by Grace and Courtesy. Kindness knows no bounds.

Teaching children about every variety of sex is a failure of understanding the Montessori philosophy of sensitive periods and child development. People who want to be “relevant” to the society embark on premature and unnecessary “instruction.” Teaching children about sex before they even get over the stage where they think that the other sex has “cooties” is to violate the sensitive period of children and to force education in which they have not expressed interest – yet.

All of this brings confusion to the child engendering chaos and violates an understanding of the methodology which in helping (and in not hindering) the child in the creation of the adult they are to become requires us to help the child remove the chaos from their development – not add to it.

Embracing the transgender movement is a violation of a trust between the guide and the child, (let alone the parents.) To encourage the confusion of gender is another violation of sensitive periods. Children go through many stages on their way to “creating the adult.” Wanting to be a fireman, an astronaut, a movie star, or anything else (including the other sex) are stages that are dealt with by time and interest or when one is a rational adult. (There are also a lot of little boys who want to marry their mommy who grow out of that.)

To enter into the confusion of gender violates another basic tenet of Montessori dealing with imagination versus fantasy. Dr. Montessori writes

that fantasy is not based on reality where imagination is based on truth. We now live in a society that cannot define what a woman is, and it is from this society that we are taking notes on the fantasy of “gender misalignment?”

Feelings are not facts. The feelings may be real, but they are not true. Just like a child afraid of the dark has real feelings of fear but they are not based on truth. Entering the gender arena is not based on truth.

The tragic part of the embrace of the woke agenda is that we do not add to Montessori. In trying to be “relevant” we throw away our uniqueness. We diminish Montessori to becoming a little sister to big brother and the uniqueness of the philosophy becomes clouded by diluting it with something it is not – an externally imposed philosophy, methodology and fantasy agenda.

For Montessorians to embrace their marching orders from a society that is not enlightened enough to recognize the value of what we prize is to sell our birthright for nothing.

To be a Montessorian is to observe the child and to meet the child’s needs. To lose that distinctive for the useless hope of being accepted by the establishment is the ultimate fantasy and betrayal of a hundred plus years of love and work.

For Montessori leadership to make “wokeness” a tenet of Montessori is a betrayal of the philosophy.

You can be a Montessorian without being woke, but it is unlikely that you can be a woke Montessorian (at least one that Dr. Montessori would recognize) and hold true to the principles of Montessori.