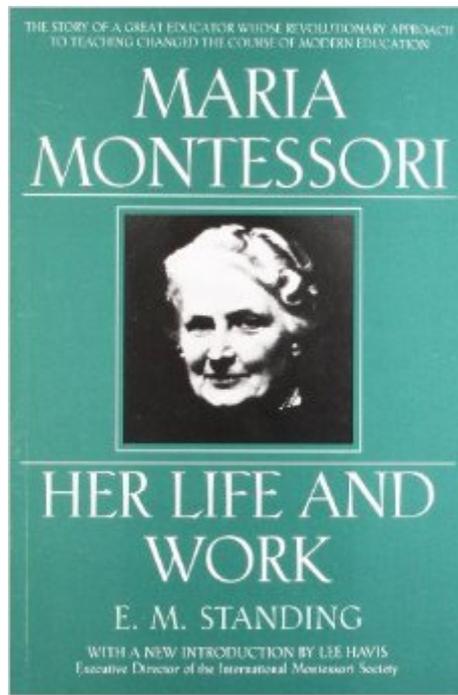


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# Maria Montessori: Her Life And Work



## Synopsis

Maria Montessori is important background reading for parents considering Montessori education for their children, as well as for those training to become Montessori teachers. The first woman to win a degree as a Doctor of Medicine in Italy in 1896, Maria Montessori's mission to improve children's education began in the slums of Rome in 1907, and continued throughout her lifetime. Her insights into the minds of children led her to develop prepared environments and other tools and devices that have come to characterize Montessori education today. Her influence in other countries has been profound and many of her teaching methods have been adopted by educators generally. Part biography and part exposition of her ideas, this engaging book reveals through her letters and personal diaries Maria Montessori's humility and delight in the success of her educational experiments and is an ideal introduction to the principals and practices of the greatest educational pioneer of the 20th century. The new introduction to *Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work* by Lee Havis, executive director of the International Montessori Society, discusses the changes that have taken place in Montessori education within recent years. An updated appendix of Montessori periodicals, courses, societies, films, and teaching materials. A revised bibliography of books by and about Maria Montessori.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the book that opened Montessori's theories and achievements to me in a way her own writing never managed to. The Standings are not unbiased, having worked with Dr. Montessori ---

but they do an excellent job of weaving Montessori's life story with her teaching discoveries and methods. If someone is interested in learning about the Montessori method, and can only read one book, this is the one. There is another biography by Rita Kramer that looks good, but I haven't gotten to it yet. Good luck!

This is my favorite book about Dr. Montessori by far. She served as such an inspiration to people who want to live Montessori out loud! It's very unfortunate more people don't know about this method and that it truly works! I am a Montessori Directress and I have taught traditionally as well. Let's just say I'll never go back to traditional teaching. God has made these children and as if we need to feel some type of accomplishment by investing in them.... No, God doesn't create emptiness it's up to us as the Montessori parent or educator to allow God to show us through the child what we can learn from them!

I had previously read another book about the Montessori method, and also the English translation of "The Montessori Method". But only this authorized biography by standing gives a good picture of how important, and how influential she was. Montessori (1870-1952) was an extremely attractive, intelligent, and complicated person. Although she claimed to be only interested in "the child", and not at all in politics, her writings are shot full of socialist and pacifist ideas. She believed her education methods, through "the child's self directed manual activities" would abolish such tendencies as selfishness, acquisitiveness and the desire for status. Montessori also claimed it was a great mistake for people to assume that her insistence on the child's "freedom" did not equate with a lack of discipline. Quite to the contrary, she insisted the teacher's (or "directress's") responsibility was to "destroy evil" in the classroom. And what is "evil"? Of course, "evil" is anything contrary to Montessori's personal belief. But Maria Montessori also had some wonderful educational ideas. She believed in "epochs of sensitivity" during which opportunities for the acquisition of certain skills could be most advantageously instilled. She believed the best time to teach literacy was from age 3 1/2 to 4 1/2, and that writing led automatically to reading. She turned out to be right about this, and also said that "absolute musical pitch" could also easily be acquired at the same ages. No one has ever proved this to be true, so I think I'll do so. My name is Bob and my email address is rovarose@aol.com

I have not finished this book. From what I have read Maria Montessori had a unique calling and mission--to bring to the world the understanding that the years of childhood are indeed in many

ways the most important years of a person's life.

I have read this work for many years and still find something new about this genius who was far ahead of her times. Generations of children have had a better life because of her unique way of "following the child." She wrote pamphlets on ecology, protecting the corals, protecting the ecosystems, water cycles, education for peace, reality education, time lines many, many years before anyone else.

The content of the book is good. The condition the book arrived in was definitely not "good" thought. The text is legible, but the pages are yellowed, corners look like they've been chewed, and there are stains on pages.

This book is technically a biography, but it contains a very dense summary of Montessori practice and philosophy. E.M. Standing worked closely with Maria Montessori in the writing of it and she read much of the manuscript. Although not written by Maria Montessori, much of it sounds as if it could be her words. This book is heavy on philosophy and includes elements that I have not previously seen in other books such as the sensitive periods for "Learning Good Manners" and "Grammar."

This was the first book I read on Montessori and it sold me on her method. Shortly after I read it, I took the Montessori training and have been teaching Montessori ever since.

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