



DECLARATION OF VIENNA 2006

Democracy starts with the child

Montessori education opens the way to a powerful democratic development in human societies

Freedom to assemble; decisions made should not conflict with the principles of democratic law.

*Children are free to form groups to co-operate in joint venture (for work and play).
Montessori materials induce co-operation.*

Freedom to act and to choose a profession; freedom of movement and settle (establishment).

*Free choice of subject matter and materials and the place to (free) work.
Limitations are set by circumstances (prepared environment).
Free action should not interfere with actions of others.*

Freedom of speech/opinion.

*Children are free to communicate with each other and to opine.
The teacher should moderate to prevent intimidation and overpowering.*

Freedom to generate new, or change existing democratic processes.

*New rules may be formulated by the group and the formalized.
Montessori mentions the importance of cohesion preceding the more formal structuring of society. This process can be observed manifesting itself in Montessori groups.*