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70% OF MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL STUDENTS STAY FOR KINDERGARTEN

IRVINE, California, MAY 1st, 2013 – Despite having access to the reputed Irvine public schools, over 70% of students at two of the [Montessori school's Irvine campuses](#) are staying for the critical 3rd year of the Montessori 3-year-primary cycle.

“In an [authentic Montessori preschool](#) program, 3- to 6-year olds stay together in one family-like community for three years,” explains Heike Larson, LePort Schools’ Vice President of Parent Outreach. “Unfortunately, in most preschool settings, parents pull out their children at age 5, when free public Kindergarten programs are available. Most LePort parents, however, are opting out of public school Kindergarten, in favor of completing our Montessori program. This year, 70% of the parents at two of our schools, and over 50% of the parents at our other four campuses, are making it possible for their children to complete the [three-year Montessori preschool cycle](#). I can’t tell you how excited we are that these 5- to 6-year olds can now have this amazing experience!”

The third year in Montessori preschool, which is the equivalent of the traditional Kindergarten year, is crucial for both the older children, and their younger peers. “From age 3 onward, Montessori preschool children work with a wide range of materials to build a foundation of skills. Then, in the 3rd year, all this hard work pays off: children who have learned letter sounds and shapes with the unique Montessori materials suddenly ‘explode’ into writing and reading. It’s not at all unusual for a [6-year-old in our Montessori preschool](#) classrooms to read chapter books or to write multi-sentence paragraphs in beautiful cursive handwriting,” explains Lindsay Journo, LePort’s Vice President of Academics. “In addition to these advanced academic skills, our 3rd year students gain tremendous confidence as classroom leaders. They help the new three-year-old friends by modeling proper classroom behavior, and even teach lessons to them. Our 3- and 4-year-old students aspire to be like their slightly older peers, which really helps to motivate them to attempt challenging activities in class.”

This fall, most LePort preschool classrooms will have between four and eight 3rd year students. This high share of older students is a key differentiator between LePort’s authentic Montessori preschool program and other Montessori preschools in the area.

While the Irvine preschool campuses are already filled for the fall, parents are encouraged to enroll at the two [Huntington Beach preschool campuses](#), or to waitlist for the Montessori infant, toddler and preschool programs at all campuses.

LePort Schools has been educating Orange County children for 13 years, and operates [six preschools and private schools in Huntington Beach and Irvine](#), serving children from infants through 8th grade. For more information about the company, visit www.LePortSchools.com.



[Montessori preschool students in the third year read real books](#), not just simplistic sight-word books common in traditional Kindergarten classrooms.



[Older Montessori preschool students often act as mentors](#) and teach lessons to their younger peers, who aspire to be like them. Both children benefit: the older one gains tremendous confidence, and the younger one gains in motivation.



Because of [Montessori's individualized approach to instruction](#), and because our Montessori preschool teachers are trained with materials up to 1st grade, advanced students can go far beyond traditional kindergarten content, like this 5-year-old boy, who is working on multi-digit long division with the Stamp Game.