

Avalon & Gentle Parenting



Gentle Parenting

Gentle parenting is a parenting approach that encourages a partnership between you and your child. The child is encouraged to make choices based on an internal willingness instead of external pressures. This parenting style asks you to become aware of the behaviour you model for your child, encourages compassion, welcomes emotions and accepts the child as a whole, capable being. According to Parents.com, the gentle parenting style is composed of four main elements: empathy, respect, understanding, and boundaries.

Montessori

Montessori is an educational approach that encourages a partnership between the teacher and your child. As with gentle parenting, children in Montessori are encouraged to make choices based on intrinsic motivation instead of external pressures or rewards. Children enter an environment that is specially prepared for them and work towards independence. Your child's development is supported and nurtured by the specially trained Montessori teacher who observes your child and gives 'lessons' based on those observations and according to the stages of development.



Prepared Environment

The Montessori Prepared Environment is lovingly designed for the child, recognizing the unique characteristics of all who enter. Attention is paid to the physical, emotional and social well being of your child. Furniture is child sized, activities are geared towards the developmental stages of the children, love and compassion is freely given.

Classroom teachers enjoy the children and engage in spontaneous and joyful moments with them. Healthy and natural boundaries are put in place so children may feel safe, loved and willing to explore.

Children feel like they belong in their classroom, they are free to choose 'work' that they have been presented, free to work on an activity for as long as they feel necessary and have the freedom to move about the classroom as they wish. As with gentle Parenting, empathy, respect, understanding, and boundaries are key to Montessori.



Respect and Empathy

Children are greeted with a handshake when they enter the classroom. Adults make eye contact when speaking with the children, a clear sign of respect within the classroom. This respect continues throughout out the day as children are observed, lessons given and guidance provided. Respect is consistently modelled for the children, their voices are heard and their opinions matter. As with gentle parenting, feelings are validated and explored, children are supported in a manner that works best for them: be it a hug, a lap, a high five or holding space for emotion. Compassion, respect and empathy is also nurtured between our students, fostering a warm and loving environment for all.

