

# Montessori School Built For Low-Income Students

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**HOUSTON** -- Unfortunately, not every child has access to early education. Now there's a group working to make sure the opportunity is available to any family, KPRC Local 2, Your Education Station, reported Wednesday.

Education at a young age determines a child's success later in life. But learning opportunities are not always equal. "Within a one-mile radius in this area, the foundation realized there are over 500 children that do not have access to early childhood education, so Montessori was the way to go," said **Munir Shivji**, education coordinator of the Ibn Sina Foundation.

A Montessori school will be built on the southwest Houston lot to serve the needs of children from 18 months old to 6 years old. The school will include toddler and early childhood classes, a colorful playground and an atmosphere that teachers said will foster growth and independence.

"Montessori gives real-life experience and that is my philosophy. I lay the foundation to move on to the next level," said **Debra Resendiz**, a transition Montessori teacher.

The Ibn Sina Foundation is building the school to celebrate the legacy and vision of Maria Montessori, founder of the methodology. "Montessori education is an aid to life and so we not only do academics, we do the holistic child -- offer a very comprehensive and complete program," said **Betsy Coe**, executive director of the Houston Montessori Education Center. Children will be selected based on academic need and family income. "The child will have the same experience as all the other children who are able to go to private school," Coe said.

"It's not where you're from. It's having teachers there that understand how to teach the method and the materials. Anybody can learn and it should be given to everybody. It's just a gift," said **Shelli Caldwell**, curriculum director of the Innovative Montessori School.

The foundation said it would slash the rate of high school dropouts by instilling educational excellence at a young age. The nonprofit Montessori school will provide education for complete to partial financial aid based on family income.

Donations to the Ibn Sina Foundation can be made at [www.100yearsmontessori.com](http://www.100yearsmontessori.com).



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