

Renzulli Learning aligns closely with the foundations of the Montessori approach: child-centered, strength-based, self-directed, and interest-driven. Both the Schoolwide Enrichment Model and the Montessori Method began with a focus on students' strengths. Grounded in more than five decades of University of Connecticut research. Powered by Renzulli Learning.

50+

years of University of
Connecticut research

40,000+

standards-aligned
enrichment activities

6

shared Montessori principles
supported

K-12

self-paced, self-directed
learners

Shared Roots: A Focus on the Child's Strengths

The original Montessori program was developed for students with disabilities and focused on what each child could do, their strengths, rather than their deficits. Renzulli Learning and the underlying Schoolwide Enrichment Model take the same stance: they begin with each student's strengths, interests, and learning profile, using tools like the [Total Talent Portfolio](#) that mirror Montessori's personalized, self-directed work cycles.

How Renzulli Learning Extends the Montessori Approach

Montessori Principle	How Renzulli Learning Supports It
Child-centered, strength-based	Begins with each student's strengths, interests, and learning styles through the Renzulli Profiler, affirming what each child can do.
Freedom to learn at one's own pace	Students move quickly through mastered material and take longer on challenging work, not restricted to grade-level content.
Self-directed work cycles	Students choose self-selected projects: research reports, dual-language studies, science, service, and community-action projects.
Individualized to the child	The Total Talent Portfolio captures each student's strengths, interests, and best work over time, a living, personalized record.
Arts, music, and practical life	Enrichment integrates arts, music, and practical life, from watercolor painting to real-world STEM like water conservation.
Learning connected to the real world	The Enrichment Triad culminates in Type III real-world investigations, where students act as first-hand investigators.

Why It Matters for Your Montessori School

Renzulli Learning does not replace the Montessori environment; it extends it online. Teachers gain a strengths profile for every child, a vast, vetted activity database to personalize work, and a simple way to document each student's growth and best work. Students gain the freedom to follow genuine interests into real, self-directed projects, in the classroom and at home. Learn more at renzullilearning.com/en/montessori.

What Montessori Educators Get

Material Type	In Renzulli Learning
Specialized programming	Feature activities across the arts and STEM, from watercolor landscape painting to water-conservation projects that ask students to act in their homes and communities.
Instructional support	Read-along and shareable online texts, visual charts and alphabet primers for phonological awareness, and multimedia texts with interactive phonics and audio support.
Intervention resources	Recorded lessons, podcasts, and videos, plus linked audio-and-visual materials and hundreds of films and digital resources students interact with on a computer or tablet.
Acceleration	Curriculum Compacting plus 40,000+ standards-aligned activities as dynamic, advanced replacement material, not more worksheets.
Enrichment	Self-selected Type III projects and deep-dive, project-based learning where students apply advanced methods to authentic problems.

Acceleration Through Curriculum Compacting

Teachers log objectives, pre-test mastery, and replacement activities; the time saved by skipping mastered material goes to advanced work and self-selected research projects. Replacement material is tiered within an MTSS framework, from enriched core (Tier 1) to advanced Type III creative productivity (Tier 3). Learn more about [Curriculum Compacting](#).

Sample Accelerated Activities

Activity	Subject
A Podcast for Curious Kids: What Is the Biggest Number? (with author Joseph Mazur)	Mathematics
360 Labs: Grand Canyon 4K 360-degree VR expedition down the Colorado River	Projects & Independent Study
Adventures in Engineering: how an air-management engineer protects the air from pollution	STEM & STEAM

Grounded in Research

The fit between Renzulli Learning and Montessori rests on shared, research-grounded principles: strength-based, individualized, self-directed learning. See [Reis & Peters \(2021\)](#); [Curriculum Compacting](#); the [SEM research base at UConn](#); and [Montessori methods research \(Annals of Dyslexia, 1992\)](#). Explore the full [Renzulli Learning research library](#).

Related page: renzullilearning.com/en/montessori

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