An authentic Montessori preschool typically embodies several key elements that align with the Dr. Maria Montessori’s pedigogy. These elements include:

1. Mixed-age classrooms: Montessori classrooms often have a mix of ages, typically spanning a three-year age range. This setup allows younger children to learn from older ones and fosters a sense of community and collaboration.
2. Child-centered environment: The classroom is designed to be child-friendly and inviting, with furniture and materials scaled to the child's size. Everything is arranged to promote independence and exploration.
3. Montessori materials: These are specific educational materials designed by Maria Montessori to promote hands-on learning and exploration. They are carefully chosen to be developmentally appropriate and to facilitate learning through discovery. Look for the pink tower, brown stair, and red rods to be in very good condition.
4. Freedom within limits: Montessori education emphasizes the importance of allowing children freedom to choose their activities within a structured environment. Children are given the freedom to work at their own pace and are guided by the teacher rather than directed.
5. Emphasis on independence: Montessori classrooms encourage children to develop independence in all aspects of their learning, including self-care, decision-making, and problem-solving.
6. Respect for the child: Montessori teachers respect each child as an individual and support their natural development, interests, and abilities.
7. Focus on holistic development: Montessori education emphasizes the development of the whole child—physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Activities are designed to promote growth in all these areas.
8. Peace education: Montessori classrooms often incorporate teachings on peace, conflict resolution, and respect for others, aiming to create a harmonious and respectful community.
9. Prepared environment: The classroom is carefully prepared to facilitate learning and exploration. Materials are organized and accessible to children, and the space is designed to be calm, orderly, and beautiful. Walls will be uncluttered and there will be a plethora of natural materials.
10. Observant teachers: Montessori teachers are trained to observe each child closely, noting their interests, progress, and needs, and to use this information to guide their teaching and to support each child's development.

These elements work together to create a unique educational environment that fosters independence, creativity, and a love of learning in children.