

The Montessori Curriculum

World Forum on Early Care and
Education

Belfast – June 2009

The Montessori Curriculum

- Is based on Dr. Montessori's philosophy of Peace
- Is known as The Cosmic Curriculum.
- The subject areas are woven together.
- The children make connections between the subject area spontaneously.

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Characteristics of The Montessori Prepared Environment

- Each environment is comprised of three age groups:

18 months – 2.5 years

- 2.5 -6 years

6 – 9 years

9 – 12 years

12 – 15 years

15 – 18 years

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Characteristics of The Montessori Prepared Environment

- **Freedom** to choose activities according to the child's inner needs.
- **Freedom** to explore with the learning materials.
- **Freedom** to communicate.
- **Freedom** to achieve individual potential.

Independence

- *“Teach me to do things by myself.”*

Maria Montessori –Education and Peace

- The child resists letting us adults help if we try to substitute our own activities for the child's.

Two Gifts of Nature

- The young child from birth to six years enjoys 2 great natural gifts:
 - **The Absorbent Mind**
 - **The Sensitive Periods**, also known as times of optimal learning.

Two Gifts of Nature

- “*The **sensitive periods** drive the child to seek certain experiences and activities and the **absorbent mind** soaks in all the information received effortlessly.*”

Clare Healy Walls, *At the Heart of Montessori*

The Absorbent Mind

- “Impressions do not merely enter his mind – they form it.”

Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind.

The Sensitive Periods

- Transitory times when a child is interested in one aspect of an environment, often to the exclusion of others.
- Example: climbing stairs
learning to walk
learning to speak

Language Development

- Consider the **wonder** of language acquisition.
- The Montessori curriculum introduces the children to the **phonetic** sounds of letters
- Spontaneous **reading** and **grammar** activities follow.

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Characteristics of The Montessori Prepared Environment

- Reverence for **Nature**.
- A love of **Silence**
- Spontaneous **self-discipline**.

The Montessori Director/ess

- Experiences a preparation period of **Formation**
- Trained to be an **Observer**.
- Is connected with **spiritual** self.
- Believes that “children unaided can construct an orderly society.”

Our Work

- *“Our work as adults does not consist in teaching, but in helping the infant mind in its work of development.”*

Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind

The Montessori Materials

- Provide learning through the **senses**.
- *“the **senses**, being explorers of the world, open the way to knowledge.”*

Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind

The Hand

- *“No sensorial education can ever occur except as a part of some total activity in which both intelligence and movement are involved.”*
- *“The Hand is the instrument of the mind.”*
 - Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*.

The Montessori Materials

- Each piece of material contains a **Control of Error**, i.e. a self-correcting possibility.
- This unique element allows the children to self-correct and leads to **independence**.

Critical Thinking

- Critical thinking is encouraged through the Control of Error,
and
- Through the relationship between the children and the teacher.

Relationship with the Teacher

- When children have a secure relationship with their teachers, they are more comfortable taking risks that enhance learning-tackling challenging tasks.
- They persist when they run into difficulty.
- They ask questions when they are confused.

- Jean M. Clinton B.Mus MD(FRCPC) McMaster University

Education

- “Our work as adults does not consist in teaching but in helping the infant mind in its work of development.”

Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*

Social Development

- *“It is interesting to see how little by little, these (children) become aware of forming a community which behaves as such... Once they have reached this level, the children no longer act thoughtlessly, but put the group first and try to succeed for its benefit.”*

Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*

Peace

- Many activities in the Montessori environment contribute towards resolution of conflict.
- For Example: The Peace Table

Active Peace

I offer you peace

I offer you love

I offer you friendship

I hear your cry

I see your beauty

I feel your pain

My wisdom flows from my spirit within

I salute that spirit in you

Let us work together for peace.

Taught by one of Gandhi's nephews.

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