

Welcome back to School!

We kicked off our second year with a great start. It was so wonderful to welcome our children, some continuing from last year and some new. There were few tears from the new students, and occasional tears from some of the older students. However, it did not take that long for them to settle into the routine.



THE ABSORBENT MIND

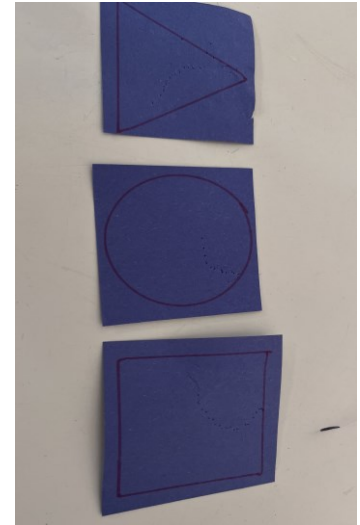
When Dr. Montessori was working with children, more than 100 years ago, she observed that children ages between 0-6 years have a special purpose in life. Their main task, at this age, is to Adapt to the culture and time they are born. To achieve this the children are given special gifts by nature, the “Absorbent Mind”, and “Human Tendencies.” Today we will be discussing the “Absorbent Mind.”

Just like animals are gifted with instincts, human babies are equipped with Absorbent Mind and Human Tendencies. The “Absorbent Mind” help young children to absorb anything from their environment. It does not select what is good and bad. With keeping this Absorbent Mind in consideration Dr. Montessori created a special

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 5**
First Day of School
- **October 9**
Thanksgiving Monday
Holiday
- **October 26 – PD Day**
School Closed
- **October 27**
Classroom Observations
For Parents

THE ABSORBENT MIND (Continued)



environment for children of this age group. In order to help children to absorb and form the best personality they could, Dr. Montessori created a beautiful environment with scientific materials, and trained an adult, who is loving and kind with an in-depth knowledge of developmental needs and characteristics of the child. Because, the Absorbent Mind does not select good or bad, we have to be extremely conscious of our actions and the way we work with children.

There are many important aspects of a Montessori environment. It is not only the work with Montessori materials that shape a child's personality, but also the Grace and Courtesy lessons we offer are of great importance for young children. Because of this Absorbent Mind, children learn anything without fatigue from birth to 6 years. They are also driven by special Human Tendencies and Sensitive Periods to help them complete this task. However, once they are passed this age, they cannot catch up on any lost skills later in their lives, just like dropped stitches. For an example, young

children learn a language, even a foreign language without any difficulty and make it their mother tongue, just by living in that environment. But if anyone tries to learn a language after this period of time, they can never achieve the fine accent that a native person has speaking that language.

At this age children are Sensorial Learners and this is why Dr. Montessori created concrete materials for them to manipulate. The impressions they create through these sensorial materials help them transfer to the real world later on as abstract concepts.

The beauty of Montessori educational approach is that the adult takes into account of the whole child's developmental needs and characteristics when working with children.

"The child must construct his adaptation to his environment from the beginning of his life. This adaptation is developed by the child taking in everything that exists in the environment by absorption, just as he takes in language."

Dr. Maria Montessori