

The Prepared Environment

Quotes by Dr. Maria Montessori

“The objects surrounding the child should look solid and attractive to him and the *house of the child* should be lovely and pleasant in all its particulars. It is almost possible to say that there is a mathematical relationship between the beauty of his surroundings and the activity of the child. He will make discoveries rather more voluntarily in a gracious setting than in an ugly one.”

“With the realization that children absorb unconsciously from their environment, it became necessary to provide a seemingly perfect learning environment for developing children. This structured environment for learning involves use of a wide range of didactic apparatus, varied activities reflecting all aspects of the child’s development, with everything being aesthetically pleasing and geared to the child’s size, needs and interests.”

“It is through the environment that the individual is molded and brought to perfection...since a child is formed by his environment he has need of precise and determined guides and not simply some vague constructive formulas.”

“Sometimes very small children in a proper environment develop a skill and exactness in their work that can only surprise us...An adult environment is not a suitable environment for children...there must be a suitable environment for the child’s growth. Obstacles must be reduced to a minimum and the surroundings should provide the necessary means for the exercise of those activities which develop a child’s energies...adults should not be an obstacle to a child’s independent activities, nor should they carry out for him those activities by means of which a child reaches maturity.”

“In our schools we give everything needed so that the child can imitate the actions he sees in his home, or in the country in which he lives. But we have implements specially made for him, of the right size to suit his diminutive proportions and strength.”

“The room is dedicated to him, and he is free to move about in it, talk and apply himself to intelligent and formative kinds of work.”

Distributed by Debra Gorman Cagle.