

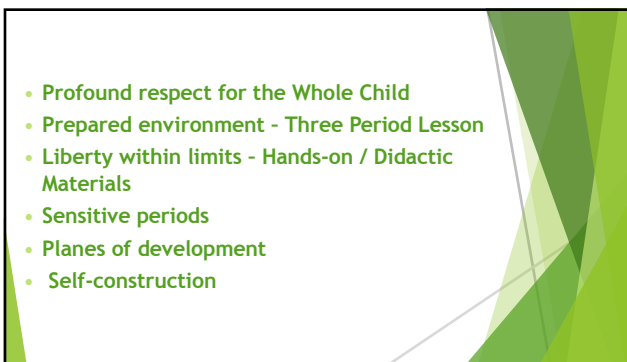
The Role of the Assistant
in the Montessori Environment

The Montessori Heartfelt Hero

Montessori
Assistants
are ...

Montessori Philosophy







Dr. Maria Montessori 1870 - 1952

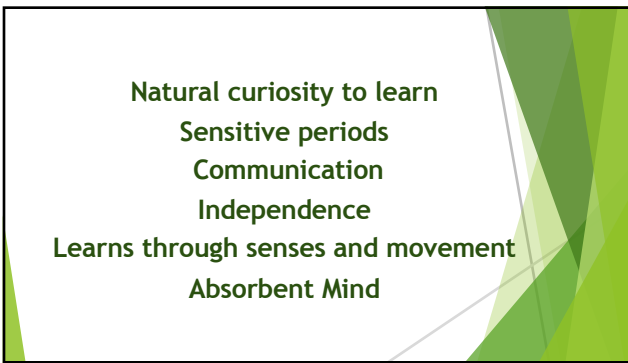
- Born in Rome, Italy, in 1870
- Attended an all boy's technical school, to be an engineer
- Graduated as the first female physician from the University of Rome
- Studied educational philosophy, psychology and anthropology
- Appointed professor of pedagogic anthropology in 1904
- Established the first Casa dei Bambini (Children's House) in 1907

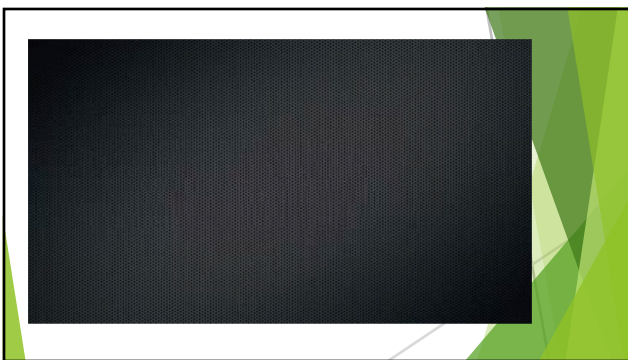


Dr. Maria Montessori 1870 - 1952

- ▶ Anthropologists
- ▶ Physician
- ▶ Classroom as Laboratory
- ▶ Head Starter
- ▶ Children's Advocate
- ▶ Teacher of all children







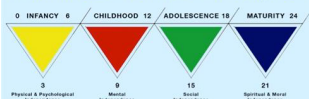
Natural Curiosity and Personal Interest



Sensitive Periods

Movement (birth to one year)	Language (birth to six years)	Small Objects (one to four years)	Order (two to four years) chores
Music (two to six years)	Toileting (18 mos. to 3 yrs.) hygiene	Grace & Courtesy (two to six years) Character	Senses (two to six years) touch, smell, taste, hear & see
Writing (three to four yrs.)	Reading (three to five yrs.)	Spatial (four to six yrs.)	Math (four to six yrs.)

Maria Montessori's Planes of Development



A cornerstone of Montessori philosophy is the understanding that humans progress through four distinct phases or stages of development. The child at each stage is unique and has specific characteristics and needs that guide his development.

Communication

- ▶ Hear - Be heard
- ▶ Read - Write
- ▶ Research - Present
- ▶ Become part of community

Senses and Movement

- ▶ Liberty within limits
- ▶ Individualized
- ▶ Opportunity to touch, hear, see, smell, even taste
- ▶ Exploration - experimentation

Independence

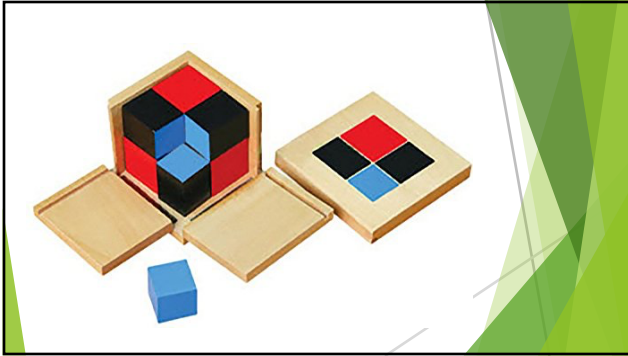
- ▶ Goal at every level
 - ▶ Personal
 - ▶ Social
 - ▶ Academic

Absorbent Mind

- ▶ See & Hear - Modeling
- ▶ Understand - Discussion
- ▶ Conscious - Unconscious

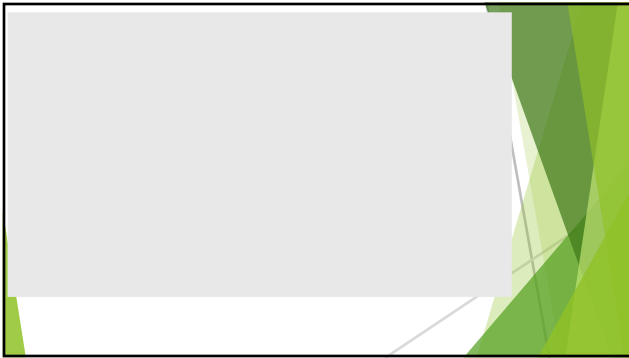
What does mean for Assistants?

Personal dignity is upheld. The child will be taught how to manage the social-emotional issues more skillfully. Instead of being told what to do, the inner wisdom of the child will be brought out. This will all result in a better learning environment where the child is most likely to thrive and learn with ease and joy.



Guides focus on the child as a person. Children learn to ask questions, think for themselves, explore, investigate, and discover. Helping children to learn independently and retain the **curiosity, creativity, and intelligence** in all aspects.





Assistance to the Lead Teacher

- It is each adult's job to help maintain the environment.
- The adult must knowledgeable - Montessori terminology and teaching methods.
- Responsibilities include keeping student progress records, attendance reports, completing necessary paperwork.
- Following the lead of the Montessori trained adult.



Duties to Students

- ▶ The Montessori teacher has a duty to guide students to grow academically, emotionally and socially.
- ▶ We aid the student through classroom assignments while demonstrating independence and personal accountability.
- ▶ Working with small groups, the assistant teacher helps the students through work cycles and gathers completed work.
- ▶ Respects child and family confidentiality.



For the Children

- Observe
- Model Positive Behavior
- Use Descriptive Praise
- Interfere with work, only...



Observe

- Throughout day
- Special time apart
- Keep records
- Discuss
- Use as tool



Positive Role Model

- Children learn by what they observe
- Children Mirror
- You set the Tone
- Respect



Descriptive Praise

- NO "Good Job"
- Describe
- Factual
- Specific
- Honest
- Non-manipulative



Interfere with work, only...

- Agreed upon with Lead
- Respectful
- For the good of child, others, community
- Close - move self

I am the decisive element in the classroom. It's my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess a tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanized or de-humanized.

Families



Families

- Friendly Open Welcoming
- Factual observation
- Relay of information
- Direct conduit to Lead
- Confidentiality
- Support of goals of Lead



Establish relationship
Have time but set boundaries
Know child - family
They are part of the community



Positive Factual Observation

- First hand observation
- Positive
- Without judgement
- Loving
- Redirect to Lead

Relay of information

- Observation
- From Lead
- From Families
- Always direct to one-to-one



Direct conduit to Lead

- Reflect positive working relationship with lead
- Reflect goals and concerns
- What you know lead will know

Confidentiality

- Do not speak in front of child
- Do not speak in front of others
- Do not share information



Support Goals of Lead

- Must be on same page
- Ask questions
- Relay observations
- Work out conflicts

Environment

- In order
- Clean
- Appropriate use
- Safety
- Open - Close Procedures



- Know the children
- Best is not always easy
- Foresee and Prevent
- Find the joy

Never do for a
child what they
can do for
themselves



Demonstrate respect, courtesy,
and grace when interacting with
students and adults in the
Montessori environment

Duties to the Classroom

- ▶ Keep activities in order, complete, clean and well stocked
- ▶ Assist teacher and children in cleaning of environment.
- ▶ Model respect for activities and environment.



Duties to the School

- ▶ You are part of a team - all colleagues
- ▶ Attitude and demeanor reflect personally and on school - Social Media
- ▶ Know and support rules - Handbook

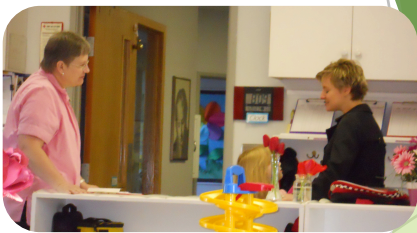
Professionalism

- Dress and act as a professional
- Be encouraging and positive
- Keep personal things private
- Protect yourself, the children and the school



- Ready to begin
- Create order
- Take time
- Know Essentials
- Support ground rules
- Support teacher decisions

- Flexible
- Proactive
- Aware and Observing
 - Generous
 - Supportive
 - Role Model



- Know and be known by the staff
- Be aware of what is going on
- Know the plant



