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### Box 06, Folder 40 - "A Revision of Montessori Principles" (E.M.S - ED-437 folder)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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## A REVISION OF MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES

If you were asked to explain in a sentence or a few sentences what is the essential thing in the Montessori method  
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ?

( Get a few answers suggested )

The essential thing is - not that it is a new method of education -- the essential thing is that there is  
A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHILD AND THE ADULT .

It is not a question of being more kind , more affectionate , more considerate , spending more time on it  
That is not the essence of this "New Relationship"

What is its essence ?

( The adult even the most loving can be an obstacle )

One might say -- that the adult must stand back  
AND GIVE THE CHILD ROOM TO GROW

The great Montessori slogan is ::

EVERY USELESS AID GIVEN TO A DEVELOPING ORGANISM ARRESTS  
RATHER THAN HELPS DEVELOPMENT .

### THE MYSTERY OF GROWTH

Growth is not a hap-hazard activity .

It is wonderfully and accurately and mysteriously directed by powers from within - peculiar to the species .

These are "INNER DIRECTIVES"

It is true in the physical sphere : if anything goes wrong we get malformities . *De Via lura*

IT IS EQUALLY TRUE IN THE MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL SPHERES .

But we don't realise it so easily and obviously

WHY ?

because mental abnormality does not show itself so obviously  
as a physical malformation .

So a matter of Biology more than Ed Mell

-2-

Growth cannot be done for another on any plane

All we can do to help is to give the right conditions .

THIS DOES NOT MEAN ABANDONMENT -- horse in a meadow  
IT MEANS THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT .

THE ENVORNEMENT MUST CORRESPOND TO THE DEGREE OF BEING .

The higher the being the more things are quired  
in the environment .

LET US LOOK AGAIN AT OUR CHART OF THE UNIVERSE.

Thre or four beings that grow

crystals ,

plants ,

animals ,

man .

his needs are maniforld

physical

animal .

intellectual

spiritual ( Wed - religion )

It is an AMBIENTE RIVELATORE

It reveals the potentialities of the organism .

HERE WE SEE THE NECESSITY AND MEANING OF FREEDOM

It means freedom for the organism to unfold the  
possibilities within it . . .

Take the WILL for example .

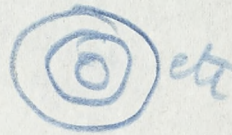
How does the will the judgement devolope

BY EXERCISE.

If no oppotuni yy to decide for itself .

SO O FTEN - like Mr Murdstone in David Copperfield —

We start by breaking the will ( Athletic inst. breaks his  
pupils leg to start off with )



In this ehvt are the means towards developemtn

(cf water , light , air etc )

BUT THE CILD IS AN INTELLIGENT BEING

HAS REASON )

THEREFORE HE MUST BE TOUGHT HOW TO MAKE USE OF THE  
MEANS TO DEVELOPMENT .

THE DIRECTRESS IS THEREFOR THE DYNAMI C LINK .

HENCE THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING HOW TO USE THE MATERIALS  
WHICH ARE WAITING IN THE PREPARED PATHS .

NOT THE TEACHING MATERIALS ) ) )--- THE M. FOR DEVELOPMENT.

SO WE GET ; ; ; ; ;

A) the removal of the adult as an obstacle

- a social question - not educational

B) The New third Factor the Prepared Environemtn .

C- The reliance on Inner Directives

which include intelligent aims .

d) The knowledge of Sensitive Periods

These are par excellence phenomena of GROWTH

### THE SENSITIVE PERIODS

Something new in education

Of immense significance .

Makes things easy

Like catching the tide and going in on the crest of  
the wave .

SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT .

BODY AND SOUL

Look at our diagram .

Look at the young foal and the baby

What a difference .?

Its meaning .

The animal " acts " from instinct

The anima incarnates an instinct man a reasoning soul  
which will last through all eternity .

Man has to forge his own instrument - the instrument of a  
free human will .

At first "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak"  
The flesh is the vast complicated net work of voluntary  
muscles .

So we give activities with intelligent aim to be  
carried out - motives of activity in the Env't .

The Exercises of Practical Life

Must understand the principles involved  
not do it mechanically and stereotyped

- A) Intelligent aim
- b) reality --- real water , real dust , real spilt ink
- c) ~~Make~~ Control of Error .  
the light tales .

4) Motive of perfection

Sensitive Period for Good Manners

fixing motor habits

Ex of Grace and Courtesy .

Exercises of Balance and Rhythm .

Principle

if you see a universal trait - go deeply  
behind it - find out the need it is supplying and do it  
more perfectly .

MIND AND BODY CONTINUED

Bay and Chimp both born with no ideas —  
at four - a vast difference . why?

The Young Explorer

has built up a lot of ideas  
Time , Place , cause and effect , orientation ,  
ideas of good and naughty , of long and short and Language  
Where come from ?

Who taught them ----- Nobody

A natural process ---- the mind abstracts from material  
things . no animal facn do this

An abstract idea - no space or matter - a spiritual thing  
BUT ALL BASED ON EXEPRIENCE THROUGH THE SENSES

ARISTOTLE

Nothing is in the intellect which was not first in the  
Senses ; but it exists in the intellect in a different way .  
- as an idea  $\frac{1}{2}$  e.g. cupn, snesnation , image and IDEA of CUP

SO HERE AS ALWAYS MONTESSORI FOLLOWS NATURE .

The Sensorial materials

AIM Not to track new sensations --- but bring order  
to be confused muddel - or jumbled collection of images and ideas  
with the child has already amassed .

The Effect Keyy to the universe .

The sky is blue .  
building  
The roofs of Rome are all geometrical designs .

A WORD ABOUT NORMALISATION

Weh growth is obstructed energies are not destroyed  
but are deviated -

# Normalization Child.

-6-

The two streams of energy

physical

mental .

Diagram

They should be integrated and work in unison .

This means certain conditions - including

hand and brain working together

attachment to reality

mind at its full stretch

food for the intellect commensurate with the

" awakened child "

hunger !

freedom to choose - and so bring the WILL - the

complete personality into the picture .

IF OBSTRUCTION COMES - even through kindness - then  
trouble arises

the two streams of energy are disunited

the tranquil pattern ( original ) of growth is

broken .

The energies are separated - and

both are deviated ...

So we get the characteristics of the deviated child

Disordered movements ,

tantrums , disobedience , possessiveness ,

lack of concentrations , lack of serenity ,

fears , timidity etc etc

WHAT IS THE CURE ?

To bring these two parts of his nature together  
THROUGH WORK .

Work which brings mind and hand together in  
one operation - the whole personality - an integration

Easier to describe deviations -- 2" the broken jug "

*Same*  
PSYCHOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE MATERIALS

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Analysis and Separation of Difficulties

Learning to Write

- a) pencil
- b) shape of letters and sounds
- c) spelling and composition

The principle of The HOOK

Indirect <sup>r</sup>eparations.  
Grammar branching off  
<sup>g</sup>eometry branching off .

EVERYTHING THROUGH AN ACTIVITY

We never give more to the eye than to the hand .  
<sup>r</sup>eading , Arith . Grammar , --- everything

FEEDING THE PERIPHERY

No directly to the pupils --  
via a material .

RISING TO KNOW THREE DIMENSIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Odds and Evens .  
Birds eye view of D ecimal System .  
Multiplication Pattern game  
9 times table .