

The following are our favorite quotes from Dr. Maria Montessori. They are the guide for our daily practice.



## Education

“The first duty of an education is to stir up life, but leave it free to develop”

- The greatest triumph of our educational method should always be this: to bring about the spontaneous progress of the child.
- The education of even a small child, therefore, does not aim at preparing him for school, but for life.
- The first six years of the child are the foundation of all the characteristics, attitudes, and abilities of his adulthood constructed in such a manner that it lasts throughout his whole life.
- We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit.
- He does it with his hands, by experience, first in play and then through work.
- Joy, feeling one’s own value, being appreciated and loved by others, feeling useful and capable of production are all factors of enormous value for the human soul.
- Growth comes from activity, not from intellectual understanding.
- The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn.

## Prepared Environment

“Looking becomes reading; touching becomes writing.”

- The things he sees are not just remembered; they form a part of his soul.
- The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite

the child to conduct his own experiences.

- The child can only develop fully by means of experience in his environment. We call such experience 'work'.
- The first aim of the prepared environment is, as far as it is possible, to render the growing child independent of the adult.

## About Child

### “Play is the work of the child.”

- The child has a mind able to absorb knowledge. He has the power to teach himself.
- The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six.
- A child is mysterious and powerful; And contains within himself the secret of human nature.

## About Care

### “Of all things love is the most potent.”

- Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence.

## About Teaching

### “Teach by teaching, not by correcting.”

- The secret of good teaching is to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flaming imagination.
- Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.
- We teachers can only help the work going on, as servants wait upon a master.
- There must be provision for the child to have contact with nature; to understand and appreciate the order, the harmony and the beauty in nature.
- Multi-age grouping encourages both individual motivation and respect for others.