

# NORMALIZATION

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# NORMALIZATION

**“This is the single most important result of our whole work. The transition from one stage to another always follows a piece of work done by the hands with real things, work accompanied by mental concentration.”**

*Maria Montessori*

**(The Absorbent Mind)**



## **THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT**

Montessori believed that if environments could be prepared with “objects which correspond to...formative tendencies” (The Absorbent Mind) the child’s energy and interest would become focused on that aspect of the environment which corresponded to the developmental need. She studied this phenomenon of concentration throughout her lifetime.

# NORMALIZATION



# CHARACTERISTICS OF NORMALIZATION

Love of work

Love of order

Profound  
spontaneous  
concentration

Attachment to  
reality

Love of silence  
and working alone

Sublimation of the  
possessive instinct

Power to act from  
real choice and not  
from curiosity

Obedience

Independence and  
initiative

Spontaneous self  
discipline

Joy

# NORMALIZATION

**“The essential thing is for the task to arouse such an interest that it engages the whole personality. In our schools this moment of healing is not the point of arrival...but it is the point of departure, after which “freedom of action” consolidates and develops the personality.”**

*Maria Montessori*  
**(The Absorbent Mind)**

# FOR NORMALIZATION TO OCCUR IT IS NECESSARY THAT:

The hands ( or physical activity) must be involved.

The components of the activity must be grounded in reality.

The child must be so engrossed in the activity that he is concentrating fully on it.

The activity must be freely chosen by the child.

He must be able to complete it without interruptions.

These conditions must recur enough times to allow the child to develop new habits of behavior.

# THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION

**“The process of normalization is always the same...It does not matter with what deviation a child may start...But as each child – individually and in his own time and place – achieves this experience of spontaneous concentration, until it has become a habit, each and all will arrive at the same place.”**

*E.M. Standing*

# CONCENTRATION

“The first essential for the child's development is concentration. The child who concentrates is immensely happy.”

*Maria Montessori*



# CONCENTRATION

Montessori suggested that a child concentrates when he focuses his attention, his energies, on a single exercise, a single work – “where the movements of the hands are guided by the mind.” (The Secret of Childhood)



# CONCENTRATION



Montessori said that given “an environment favorable to the child’s spiritual growth,” the child “will suddenly fix his attention upon an object, will use it for the purpose for which it was constructed, and will continue to repeat the same exercise indefinitely.” (The Advanced Montessori Method)

# CONCENTRATION

With concentration, Montessori said, the majority of the children grow calm. Their “nervous systems rest.” “They only move their hands when they work. A child who concentrates does not disturb others.” When children find objects that interest them, “disorder disappears in a flash and the wanderings of their minds are at an end.”



# CONCENTRATION



**“When a child concentrates”, Montessori said, “his character is changed.  
It is as though he had taken off a mask.”**

# CONCENTRATION



“It is as though a connection has been made with an inner power or with the subconscious and this brings about the construction of the personality.”

*Maria Montessori*



# CONCENTRATION

“An interesting piece of work, freely chosen, which has the virtue of inducing concentration rather than fatigue, adds to the child’s energies and mental capacities, and leads him to self-mastery.”

*Maria Montessori*

# CONCENTRATION

“It is as though a connection has been made with an inner power or with the subconscious and this brings about the construction of the personality.”

*Maria Montessori*



# CONCENTRATION



“It is concentration of power which gives strength, and whatever means that provoke this concentration...become a means of building up of character.”

*Maria Montessori*

# CONCENTRATION

“Concentration connects the exercise with something inside. If the creative energies of a child...are disconnected, broken, concentration brings a new connection which results in normality.”

*Maria Montessori*





# CONCENTRATION

“When this spiritual connection is made, all the powers in the individual will function, all the little lights in the individuality begin to shine. When we have obtained this we are at the starting point.”

*Maria Montessori*

# CONCENTRATION EVENT

Focusing of  
attention

Limitation of  
movement

Use of the  
hand

Repetition

Exactitude

Pleasure

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