

*Montessori Learning  
in the  
21st Century:*

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

STUDY GUIDE



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## STUDY GUIDE



### CHAPTER ONE

#### *The Century of the Child*

1. What influences greatly impacted Dr. Maria Montessori's life, both professionally and personally?
2. In what ways did Dr. Montessori's work become a worldwide movement?

*Activity:* Think of one challenge that Dr. Montessori faced in her life. How would you have handled that situation?

### CHAPTER TWO

#### *The Relevance of Montessori in Modern Times*

1. Is Dr. Montessori's work still relevant in today's modern world? If so, in what ways?
2. Can we use modern research to justify Montessori education?

## CHAPTER THREE

### *The Big Picture of Child Development*

1. What are the advantages/limitations of a stage-theory approach to explaining aspects of child development?
2. What aspects of development in the third plane (adolescence) are similar to aspects of the first plane (0-6 years)?

*Activity:* Think about aspects of your own personality. Which planes of development were instrumental in forming these aspects?

## CHAPTER FOUR

### *The Child's Mind*

1. In what ways is the mind of a young child up to age six different from an adult mind?
2. How can you support a child's absorbent mind?

## CHAPTER FIVE

### *Sensitive Periods for Building Intelligence*

1. How can you see evidence of sensitive periods in the life of a child?
2. What significant aspects of child development are most influenced by sensitive periods?
3. Are there subtle aspects of development influenced by sensitive periods that are not as observable as others?

*Activity:* Write a description of your earliest memory in life. Underline all the words that represent memories related to your senses (touch, smell, taste, sight, and hearing).

## CHAPTER SIX

### *Conquering Everest*

1. In what way does the development of movement reflect a child's developing brain?
2. Does Dr. Montessori's outline of the development of movement still ring true today?
3. What current social/cultural influences can have a great impact on the development of movement?
4. How can parents support the natural development of movement in their children?

*Activity:* Attempt to eat one meal with a large serving spoon and serving fork to experience what it's like for children living in an environment that is totally adult sized. Or look at your home environment and list any obvious obstacles to movement, especially for a young child.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### *Talk, Talk, Talk*

1. What are simple ways to support the development of a good vocabulary in a child?
2. Vocabulary is built upon life experiences. What sorts of experiences can you provide for children without "teaching" them in a traditional manner?
3. How important is it to have spontaneous conversations with children every day?

*Activity:* Listen to a child's spontaneous conversations (most of these will be with themselves!) and make a list of five of the child's current interests. Then, sit down and have a conversation with the child around one of these interests.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### *Learning Through the Senses*

1. A child builds categories/classifications and catalogs of sensory data from experience. How can you support this natural ability in a young child?
2. Sensory overload is common in today's world. How can you protect a child from this overwhelming experience?

## CHAPTER NINE

### *From Chaos to Order*

1. Order is an essential aspect in a child's development. How can you provide external order without becoming rigid and inflexible?
2. What aspects of building order in a child's mind can be supported through the home environment?

*Activity:* Think of your routine when you get up in the morning and get ready for your day. Do you do the same tasks in the same order every day? How important is this routine to getting a good start to your day?

## CHAPTER TEN

### *This Is My Family and My Home*

1. Home is a child's safe haven. Are you providing this physical and psychological haven for children in your life?
2. What are three simple things you can do at home to better support the natural development of children in your life?

CHAPTER ELEVEN

*This Is My Montessori School*

1. What advantages are offered to a child through a Montessori experience?
2. How can you keep realistic expectations about children and their Montessori school?

*Activity:* Think of your own early school experiences. How different are they from children in your life who attend a Montessori school?