

Introduction to Sensorial

The sensorial materials are perhaps the most significant development of Dr. Maria Montessori's. Each specific material shows her true devotion to her belief in the absorbent and mathematical mind of the child. Through the exercises, a child forms concrete impressions with which he will later abstract from.

The sensorial materials continue the sensory impressions that the child begins in 'practical life' to satisfy their growing intellect.



These materials demand activity and require more focus and concentration from the child. They are designed to help the child refine his senses, therefore increasing his observation skills. Language is also introduced with the sensorial materials so that the child can accurately describe the concepts they are learning. With these increased skills they are better able to perceive the world around them.

The sensorial materials are graded sequentially to increase logical thinking skills and are in fact a solid foundation and preparation for mathematics, language and music. Each exercise is designed to isolate one quality only so that the child learns to discriminate these qualities using his senses. A control of error is built into the materials to encourage problem solving skills and enable the child to work independently. These qualities help the child to work spontaneously with materials without getting discouraged. The materials also allow for repetition of the exercises, which in turn increases memory building and concentration skills.

Each sensorial work is designed to be attractive so that the child is drawn to it. The materials are detailed, precise and very structured to encourage the child to compare and classify the forms they see and touch, the sounds they hear, the aromas they smell and the tastes they taste. As the child learns to observe and discriminate differences in their environment, it becomes easier for them to live in peace and harmony with it.

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