

# MONTESSORI: TWO PLANES OF DEVELOPMENT

## CHILDREN'S HOUSE CHILD

(ages 3 – 6)

Great physical growth: coordinating body movements

Credulous: must deal with reality

Loves to repeat

Needs details to build overview

Absorbs everything

Process-oriented

Concrete

Order and organization is primary goal

Ego centered

Loves beauty

Works and obeys out of love

Developing independence and self-reliance

Attached to family and environment

Needs protection and non-interference

Needs model of movement and order

## ELEMENTARY CHILD

(ages 6 – 12)

Great mental growth: coordinating knowledge

Great imagination: can now deal with the abstract

Dislikes repetition

Needs overview to organize details

Can be selective

Goal-oriented: needs practical aspect

Ready for abstraction

Concept and acquisition of skills is primary goal

Social

Loves knowledge

Works and obeys from a sense of duty and responsibility to the group

Developing mental independence and moral code

Ready to explore the world

Needs adult help and guidance: structure

Needs modeling of ideas