

The Needs of the
6 to 12 Child
ESSORI
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The Needs of the 6 -12 child

Maria Montessori Says:

‘What he learns must be interesting, must be fascinating, we must give him grandeur. To begin with let us present him with the world’

The reasoning mind needs: reasoning and imagination without both the child is not learning.

Memorizing is not the best way to learn, though the child needs and has a capacity to learn lots of facts, he is interested in the causes and interrelationships of things. He wants to think, he wants to be excited and find out the how and why. The child is working from the big detail to the finer details.

They are forming order in their mind and therefore are less focused on orderliness in the environment. Simply guide and remind them what the standard of expectation is.

It is possible to interrupt them and get them to think further if you feel they are not stretching themselves.

Teamwork is important. A little noise should be expected as they talk and work together. They should be given time to learn collaborative skills at this point. They do not thrive on individual projects, let your children learn together, by the time they are teenagers it is a bit too late, as they turn inward to find themselves. Know the child...

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The child needs to be given the space to explore... they like and love **big work and humongous figures**... all those worksheets and text books actually cramp their style. Let them come up with their own problems to solve. You will find it will stretch them and of course for those that are not stretching themselves, a little comment like 'I wonder

You can ask them to make word searches or puzzles and then exchange with their friends to find the answers. So much fun, so much thinking, so much skills are being honed in on. It is not good enough to give the children lots of homework. No let them come up with their own homework and get them to do presentations.

I do hope that as a general rule you have all moved away from bombarding children with daily homework? You will be shocked at the level of great work your children will produce if you allow them to, get them to do artwork, write an essay or do a presentation on any related work they have covered in class. They will surprise you.

The 7 to 12 year old is more interested in the acts of accomplishments of men than by the things produced. The how of things and the why is more important to them than the thing itself. So your 3 to 6 child thrives on learning the names of things, but this child wants to know how it came about and why. The age of reasoning, logic, the moral compass and judgement is taking root gradually. It is up to the adults in the environment to help the child develop appropriately by ensuring that the environment is adapted to the new needs of the child.

Give the child only as much information that is needed and necessary, you do not need to teach or tell them every little bit of information. They love to find out things for themselves. The child needs to work it out himself. That is why the cry of the 7 to 12 year old is 'Help me to think for myself.' Not 'Tell me what to think!'

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We want critical thinkers, right? Then we must let them develop their think capabilities.

They need provisions in the classroom, books for research. Research should not be 100 % reliant on the internet at this stage. You must have a vibrant library. You can start small but grow it till you have books that cover a lot of topics.

Provide also lots of Command cards, experiment activities. Children love this and it will help them answer the whys and the how's of things around them. Through these experiments they will discover reality.

The children must use their imagination in this plane, so they do not need everything to be concrete, we use a lot of stories to stimulate their imagination and work from the big to the tiny facts. We will therefore tell a story about the creation of the universe and the planets then another about the beginning of life on earth etc.

Movement is also still an important factor. Children should have freedom of movement. They want to know more about the world. The classroom is not enough as a learning environment for your 7 to 12 year old. It is therefore imperative to ensure that when they are in the classroom it stimulates them and eliminates their desire to be outside. On the other hand make sure that you have provided an adequate indoor environment that prepares them to explore the outside world with purpose, inquiry and understanding.

The child needs to make connections in his brain about all that he is learning, the answers he is figuring out, so that he can bring some sort of order to his mind.

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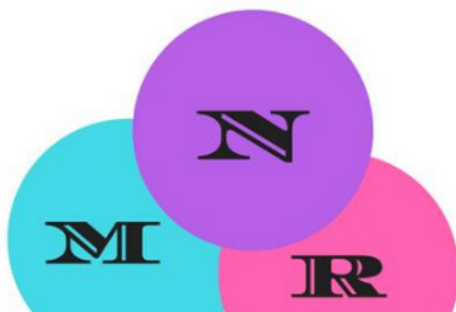
Welcome to creating a vibrant learning setting for the primary school child, born out of a true understanding of the needs of the 6 to 7 year old.

Maria Montessori said:

‘...Bring the child to the consciousness of his own dignity and he will feel free.’



"We are confronted with a considerable development of consciousness that has already taken place, but now that consciousness is thrown outwards with a special direction, intelligence being extroverted, and there is an unusual demand on the part of the child to know the reasons for things"



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