

Parent Education Communication 10/14/2010 Coherence

Adapted from Edward Fidellow

Coherence in the Montessori environment and in the philosophy gives great long term benefits to your child. Much of life comes to us in incoherent bits. We take the clues we receive and attempt to create a mosaic of understanding. Imagine how a young child absorbs and constructs language skills. It comes in bits and pieces and a child has to construct its meaning and its use.

Montessori by its nature and purpose gives coherence across the educational spectrum. What the child learns in practical life is further built on in sensorial activities, which forms a coherent base and approach for math, language, geometry, botany etc. Traditional schools tend to treat each learning discipline separate from others. Montessori uses each discipline to teach the others. Montessori teaches according to the child's needs, interests, and abilities. The tools your child learns in practical life, sensorial and math etc are valid not only for school but for the rest of his life. Montessori succeeds in helping your child develop and organize an approach to learning, to problem solving, and to life that is coherent. Montessori is successful in dealing not only with the small things that enhance your child's ability to assimilate, correlate, coordinate and master the puzzles of life.

An example of this in Ms. Martha's room is found in practical life and the language area. Even the very youngest child uses practical life materials, pouring spooning and transferring materials from the left container to the right container. The logic and pattern is left to right. How does this apply to language? When a child has mastered sandpaper letters and is ready to construct words with the movable alphabet they naturally place the letters left to right. We read a sentence starting at the left and ending at the right. It is logical for our culture and language and the patterns of practical life materials set the stage at the very beginning.