

PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO FULFILL DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS

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History of Montessori

- * Montessori philosophy developed by Maria Montessori (1870 – 1952)
- * Educator only later on after being one of first woman physicians
- * Philosophy was ahead of its time and preceded many 20th century developments in education and child psychology
- * Started first classroom in 1907
- * Became popular by 1910, but only started making real impact in United States in the 1950's



“The greatness of the human personality begins at the hour of birth. From this almost mystic affirmation there comes what may seem a strange conclusion: that education must start from birth”

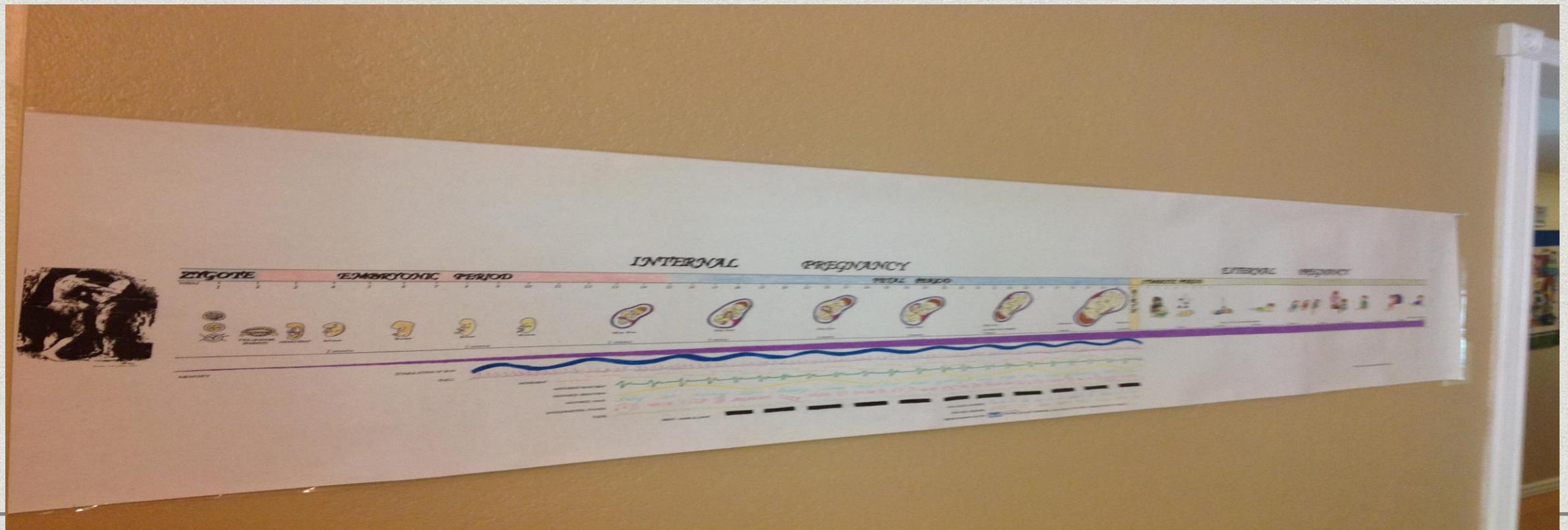
- Maria Montessori

Preparation of the Environment

- * What are the needs of the child at each stage of development?
- * Adult must set up the environment according to the needs of the child

Needs of Infant/Toddlers

- * Infants and toddlers need a simple beautiful and safe environment in which they can experience through their senses (Light, materials, color, space)
- * Toddlers are more mobile and need an environment where materials and furniture are at their level of development such that it encourages movement



Role of the Adult/Teacher

- * Even with the most optimally prepared environment, it will not work without an adult that understands the needs of the child
- * Loving attitude and respect for the child and their work
- * Must be interested in the physical and psychological good of the child
- * Observing child's needs and acting accordingly
- * Knowing the greater inner potential of the child
- * Adult must acquire scientific knowledge of human development through both information as well as observation
- * Adult acts as a mediator between the environment and the child, guiding the child to use the environment properly
- * Maintaining an orderly environment
- * Role models as children are acute observers and listeners
- * Examples

Observation

- * “Look to the child”
- * Observation is an art
- * Through observation we can know each child’s needs and prepare the environment appropriately
- * The work of Maria Montessori is a direct result of observation
- * Examples

Freedom and Limits

- * There can't be freedom without limits
- * Rules and order help the child feel secure in their environment
- * Children should know what is expected from them
- * They are free to move and choose their work

Independence

- * “Help me to do it by myself”
- * Independence is gained through the child’s activity
- * Creating an accessible environment and showing the child how to use the materials is important when teaching independence

Infant Environment

- * Sleeping area
- * Movement area
- * Eating area
- * Changing area
- * Work area





Toddler Environment

- * Sleeping area
- * Movement area
- * Eating area
- * Changing area
- * Work area (indoor & outdoor)
 - * Practical life
 - * Art
 - * Music

What does this all look like?

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- * Video