

SUPPORTING FREE EXPRESSION IN MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENTS

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION

Imagination involves the forming of a mental concept of what is not actually present to the senses. Creativity is a product of the imagination and results from the mental recombining of imagined ideas in new and inventive ways. Both are dependent on mental imagery formed through sensorial experience.

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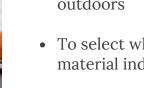
"The environment must itself be beautiful, harmonious and based in reality in order for the child to organize his or her perceptions of it." Dr. Maria Montessori



WHAT FREEDOMS AND OPPORTUNITIES DO CHILDREN HAVE?



To engage in creative explorations throughout the day



To connect with nature and engage in creative explorations outdoors



To select what attracts them in the environment and to access material independently



To work on creations without interruption for as long as they



• To communicate and share discoveries with educators, families and peers at will



"Imagination does not become great until human beings - given the courage and strength - use it to create." Dr. Maria Montessori





Lack of materials, time and opportunities:

- Add materials to each area of Montessori following children's interest to spark curiosity
- Introduce and encourage different forms of expression; dancing, singing, dramatizing, knitting, artwork, etc.

Lack of guidance, encouragement and appreciation:

- Appreciate process and efforts over product
- Provide opportunities to display children's creative expressions
- Model and become an advocate for children's free expression
- Encourage families to value free expression through interactions and documentation



"Maria Montessori viewed creativity within the context of total development intellectual, artistic, emotional and physical. Her plotting of child development traces the most significant of creative endeavours - the making of the personality, the construction of the child's self." Pamela Nunn

WHAT ELSE?

Bins to Support Free Expression and Creativity

- Roman Arch Bin# 783
- Buddha Board Bin# 11766 • Making Patterns Bin# 11506
- Construction -Wooden Blocks Bin# 1584 Wooden Play Dough Stamps Bin# 11767

Many more in the Artistic Expression Section!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Art Kits from Act

Nurturing Your Child's Imagination

