

Montessori 0 to 6 in the words of Jennifer Shields:

As a parent I was extremely excited to hear a Montessori expert, Jennifer Shields, describe, in detail, what Maria Montessori observed in children and what led to the creation of the Montessori Method of Education. I was hanging on Jennifer's every word about Dr. Montessori, children and parents, and understanding how Dr. Montessori's observations allowed her to discover such a profound and strong point of view on the manner in which children learn, as well as meet their needs cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically. Children are born to learn. It is imperative that we support children during sensitive periods of development to have the child realize their full potential. The amount of learning that happens from the years between birth and age 6 is immense. They learn to crawl, walk, and talk without someone to teach them. We need to allow children the freedom to learn, within boundaries, through their senses. The carefully crafted Montessori materials engage the children's senses, allowing the introduction of concrete concepts. The materials are introduced within the sensitive periods of order, language, and math to maximize the full scope of each concept. As the child masters these lessons, the materials get more and more abstract. Jennifer went on to describe the development of a child from birth to age 18. She discussed how the children move in and out of these sensitive periods, which last for 3 years and are cyclical.

As I listened to Jennifer speak, I was reminded of my first time observing at Mater Amoris. I actually observed Jennifer's class. The children in her class welcomed me with a guest book and offer of tea. I carry such a fond memory of that experience. Watching the children work, I knew my daughter needed to be a part of this wonderful and rich environment. As a family our goals for our children are to be educated, but not only academically. We want our children to advocate for themselves and others, love learning and sharing that knowledge, cooperate and collaborate with people of all walks of life. For us that is truly education. We have found that in the beautiful Montessori environment of Mater Amoris.

Sincerely,
Carrie Weitzman