

The Digital Child

Network Meeting 5 February 2022

Birth to Three

Aspects of the Child's Development to Consider

1. HUMAN TENDENCIES - characteristics all humans have that enable them to fit themselves into an unknown land, expressed differently according to age.
 - Exploration - sensorial, using all the senses
 - Communication - non-verbal and verbal
 - Work - with the hands. Purposeful, leading to self-construction - >>>>>> brain development, and thus the development of intelligence
2. FIRST PLANE OF DEVELOPMENT - Sub Plane 0 - 3 years
 - Sensorial Learners - take in and classify sensorial experiences, leading to order in the brain
 - Reality-based - need to interact with real objects and people, not fantasy
 - Absorbent Mind - a special brain that allows the child to take in every aspect of their environment and make it part of themselves.
 - Sensitive Periods - critical points, allowing the child to effortlessly acquire knowledge and skills.
 - The environment needs to have order in both routines and appearance.

The work of the child from birth to three years is self construction, in particular

- Developing language
- Developing movement
- Achieving a level of functional independence

Maria Montessori wrote:-

“Never give more to the mind than to the hand”

The real world is fascinating to young children so the best we can give our children is access to it, and save the digital world until they are older.