

“We cannot create observers by saying “observe” but by giving them the power and the means for this observation; and these means are produced through the education of the senses.”

~Maria Montessori

Sensorial

Children interact with the world through their senses. The Sensorial curriculum is designed to help the child focus her attention more carefully on the physical world, exploring with each of her senses the subtle variations in the properties of objects. Additionally, the activities of the sensorial area provide a foundation for future success with the Math materials.

At first, the child may simply be asked to sort among a prepared series of objects that vary by only one aspect, such as height, length, or width. Other exercises challenge the child to find identical pairs of focus on very different physical properties such as weight, shades of color, temperature or sound. Each exercise fascinates the child and is just difficult enough to represent a meaningful challenge. Each has a built-in control of error that allows the child who is observant to check their own work.

The Sensorial exercises include lessons in vocabulary, as the children master the names of everything from sophisticated plane and solid geometric figures to the parts of familiar plants and animals. We observe that as the children learn the correct names for things, the objects themselves take on meaning and reality as the child learns to recognize and name them.

We certainly don't believe we can improve a child's hearing, sight, or sense of touch through training. However, we can help children to pay attention, to focus their awareness, and to learn how to observe and consider what come into their experience. These exercises can help children understand and appreciate their world more fully.