
THE DEVELOPMENTAL RELEVANCE OF LOVE – A MONTESSORI PERSPECTIVE

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DR. MONTESSORI AND CHILDREN



- 1870–1952
- First woman physician in Italy
- Work with children with disabilities
- Studied anthropology, sociology, psychology
- Scientist by nature
- Revelation of the child's true nature through observation

LOVE AS A DEVELOPMENTAL IMPERATIVE



- Adult's love and Child's love
- UNESCO's Four Pillars
- Social Embryo
- Head, heart and hands

MANIFESTATIONS



- Language and co-ordinated movement
- Engaging in daily life
- Work – exchange with the world
- Independence – decision making
- Drive towards social life – integration of the personality

ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENT



- Barriers to development
- Opportunities for engaging with the world
- Stability in relationships – to mitigate effects of trauma

But love is much more than we have said so far. In man's mind it has been exalted by fantasy, but in us it is no other than one aspect of a very complex universal force, which—denoted by the words "attraction" and "affinity"—rules the world, keeps the stars in their courses, causes the conjunction of atoms to form new substances, holds things down on the earth's surface. It is the force which regulates and orders the organic and the inorganic, and which becomes incorporated into the essence of everything and of all things, like a guide to salvation and to the endlessness of evolution. It is generally unconscious, but in life it sometimes assumes consciousness, and, when felt in man's heart, he calls it "love."

Dr. Maria Montessori





Session 31
Interactive Knowledge Update on
The developmental relevance of love: a Montessori perspective
Date: 18th October 2022 @Masonic Medical Centre for Children

The mention of a 'child' or 'childhood' immediately evokes images, emotions and experiences, most of them positive and hopeful. In the last eight decades, experts - from the field of Paediatrics to Child Development, Theology to Psychology, Arts to Archived experiences - have studied this important phase of the life cycle more deeply.

While the United Nations describes anyone between the age of 0-18 as a child, these fields and their systematic research provide enough evidence to further sub classify these stages as the first 1000 days, early childhood, middle childhood and then adolescence. It is only then that adulthood sets in. This scientific evidence from various fields is worthy of our deeper reading, reflection and understanding. We believe that in doing so, we give ourselves real chances to augment our efforts in child development, both through policy & practice, and its vital intersection praxis. In difficult times, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, it will also help us see why declaring early childhood services as an essential service is critical! This interactive knowledge update is a contribution to our united effort to make 'CHILDREN' a priority during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. **Every child deserves a hopeful and healthy start to life!**

Source: Nurturing the many growing children in our midst: What are the implications of this COVID-19 pandemic in their present and their future? www.icphhealth.org

This session will help you discover answers to questions including:

- ✓ As a composite group of stakeholders around the child, why is it important to know what the child feels as love for their world?
- ✓ What does this love drive the child towards, in their development?
- ✓ What implications does it have for society?
- ✓ Can the love that children experience impact humanity as a whole?

Programme

- 08.10 am **Welcome**
Introduction of the Speaker
- 08.15 **The developmental relevance of love: a Montessori perspective**
Ms.Pavithra Rajagopalan,
AMI Primary Trainer,
Faculty at the Sir Ratan Tata Institute
Trainer, LTLT, Arigatou International
- 08.45 **Q & A**
- 09.00 **Concluding Remarks**
Dr.Kezevino Aram, President, Shanti Ashram



Profile of the Speaker: Ms.Pavithra Rajagopalan

Pavithra Rajagopalan has worked with children in formal, non-formal and informal settings since 2001.

She is an Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) Primary Trainer. She has worked in Montessori schools in India, the US and New Zealand. Now in her role as a teacher trainer, Pavithra is faculty at the Sir Ratan Tata Institute, Bombay, India. She is also part of the faculty for Diploma courses in Taiwan and Beijing. She has conducted Assistant/ Orientation courses in India, Singapore, China and Israel.

In addition, Pavithra works closely with the Gandhian Institution, Shanti Ashram, India, where she is involved in strengthening pioneering projects related to Early Childhood Education in vulnerable communities.



Interactive Knowledge Update on The developmental relevance of love: a Montessori perspective

This talk was delivered as part of the 31st Interactive Knowledge Update on 18th October 2022 at Coimbatore.

by

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