

First Presbyterian Church Montessori Preschool and Kindergarten

November 2009

Children in the Montessori Toddler Community are learning to care for themselves and to care for their classroom environment: toileting, hand washing, putting on their jackets, sweeping, washing the easel, watering plants, etc.

Celebrations of Life

Green Room~

Brandon - November 6

Nathan - November 30

Respecting Concentration

One of the most important things we can do for a child is to respect concentration. When the child is engaged in something safe and purposeful (an activity requiring effort of both the mind and the body-not watching TV!) this is considered an important *work*, to be respected and protected-to be cherished.

The first essential for the child's development is concentration. It lays the whole basis for his character and social behavior. Praise, help, or even a look, may be enough to interrupt him, or destroy the activity. It seems a strange thing to say, but this can happen even if the child merely becomes aware of being watched. After all, we too sometimes feel unable to go on working if someone comes to see what we are doing.

The teacher's (and parents') skill in not interfering comes with practice like everything else, but it never comes very easily. What advice can we give to mothers? Their children need to work at an interesting occupation: they should not be helped unnecessarily, nor interrupted, once they have begun to do something intelligent.

-Dr. Maria Montessori