



The Halton Resource Connection

SUPPORTING FREE EXPRESSION IN MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENTS

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION

Imagination involves the forming of a mental concept of what is not actually present to the senses. Creativity is a product of the imagination and results from the mental recombining of imagined ideas in new and inventive ways. Both are dependent on mental imagery formed through sensorial experience.

montessori-ami.org



"The environment must itself be beautiful, harmonious and based in reality in order for the child to organize his or her perceptions of it."
Dr. Maria Montessori



WHAT FREEDOMS AND OPPORTUNITIES DO CHILDREN HAVE?

- To engage in creative explorations throughout the day
- To connect with nature and engage in creative explorations outdoors
- To select what attracts them in the environment and to access material independently
- To work on creations without interruption for as long as they like
- To discover solutions and ideas on their own
- To communicate and share discoveries with educators, families and peers at will



"Imagination does not become great until human beings - given the courage and strength - use it to create."
Dr. Maria Montessori



WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BARRIERS TO FREE EXPRESSION & HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THEM?

Lack of materials, time and opportunities:

- Add materials to each area of Montessori following children's interest to spark curiosity
- Introduce and encourage different forms of expression; dancing, singing, dramatizing, knitting, artwork, etc.

Lack of guidance, encouragement and appreciation:

- Appreciate process and efforts over product
- Provide opportunities to display children's creative expressions
- Model and become an advocate for children's free expression
- Encourage families to value free expression through interactions and documentation



"Maria Montessori viewed creativity within the context of total development – intellectual, artistic, emotional and physical. Her plotting of child development traces the most significant of creative endeavours – the making of the personality, the construction of the child's self."
Pamela Nunn

WHAT ELSE?

Bins to Support Free Expression and Creativity

- Roman Arch **Bin# 783**
 - Buddha Board **Bin# 11766**
 - Making Patterns **Bin# 11506**
 - Construction –Wooden Blocks **Bin# 1584**
 - Wooden Play Dough Stamps **Bin# 11767**
- Many more in the Artistic Expression Section!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Art Kits from Act](#)

[Nurturing Your Child's Imagination](#)



info@thrc.ca



905-875-4600 ext. 101