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# Nest Notes

November 2, 2018

The Montessori term, sensitive period is used to define a particular phase in development in which a child will be more open, interested, motivated, and capable of learning particular concepts or developing particular skills. During these sensitive periods a child could be described as having an unquenchable passion for mastering the skills or concepts of this phase. They are motivated by an intense inner drive. The onset and length of duration of each sensitive period will vary with each individual child. They do, generally occur within a predictable period of the child's development. The sensitive periods occur throughout the four planes of development. However, it is in the first plane, during the stage of the absorbent mind, that the power of the sensitive periods can so clearly be seen. The sensitive period is there for a short time to effortlessly acquire knowledge after this time has passed the child still can learn, yet not so effortlessly.

For example, a young child learns his or her mother tongue almost automatically, provided the proper exposure has been present. There is no other time in life when a person can learn a second language so effortlessly. than between the ages of birth and six years. Of course, a second language can be learned later in life, usually requiring much study and practice. And for the most part, that second language will not be as perfected or natural as the mother tongue or other languages learned before six years of age.



While Maria Montessori tied ages to the sensitive periods, she is also very clear that each child is different, and these sensitive periods may begin earlier or even later for each child. This is why observation is so important.

Some sensitive periods in the first plane include: Order, language, tiny details, sensorial, tactile experiences, precise movement, writing, numbers, and grace and courtesy. We touch on many in our toddler environment while many others develop in the primary environments. It is important to respect the child, with our observation in the Montessori environment, this is always our goal.

We had a Happy Halloween! Some of the children loved the sensorial experience! While some wanted to touch, and pull out pulp, others were happing watching. They all did use their olfactory sense to smell our pumpkin. The children chose two square eyes, a funny triangle nose (one of our friends was wearing a jack-o-lantern shirt), and a happy one tooth smile. The best part was at lunch when we put two flickering artificial votives inside and made our classroom more subdued and we all watched the glow of our pumpkin.

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## Nest Notes Continued...

We baked this week our three ingredient banana cookies.

2 ripe bananas mashed

1 cup of quick cooking GF oats

1/4 cup of mini allergy friendly chocolate chips

Mash the bananas, mix in the oats, then mix in the chocolate chips. Bake at 350 for 15-16 minutes until the cookie is set. Take out and let cool. It is best to use with parchment paper.

They are yummy, healthy, cookies. Instead of the chocolate chips you can add dried fruit or experiment with other add ins. We will try with raisins next!



Ms. Alicia has brought her animal stick puppets! We sing along, waiting for our animal to be sung then the animal we are holding comes alive and we make the sounds of the different animals on the farm. "Who has the horse?" Our animals include, the horse, cow, pig, and chicken. Then we have a parade with them, ending back at our line.

## Volunteer Hours

**\*Nest Yearbook Page:** Our yearbook will be a collaborative effort with each level participating in the creation. We are looking for a parent to arrange our yearbook page with our students' pictures. If you are in need of volunteer hours, this would be a great way to meet most or all of the hours needed.

**\*Tomorrow, November 3, is our Annual Art Festival.** Our class needs volunteers to help the children with the craft we will be doing, Handprint turkey Place Cards. They are adorable and so much fun for all. The craft includes hand tracing, cutting out, gluing feathers, a googly eye, sequins, and adding clothespin feet. The result will be something to treasure year after year! Volunteers are needed for 10:45-12:00, and 12:00-1:15 shifts. Please contact Jessica or me if you are willing to help.

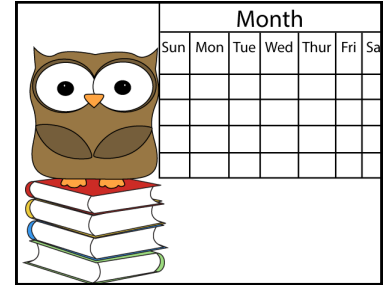


Pulling out our pulp

We cannot create observers by saying 'observe', but by giving them the power and the means for this observation and these means are procured through education of the senses.  
Maria Montessori

# Dates to Remember

Tomorrow! November 3rd is our annual art festival. It is a lovely day for the children. I hope to see you there. It begins at 11 and ends at 1. Lunch is being served which includes choices of Domino's pizza, homemade hummus, pita, and salad prepared with love! Please bring a little cash with you for tickets for the crafts and food. Don't worry if you forget, we have IOU's!  
 The Suncoast blood bank will also be at our event if anyone would like to donate.



November 16th will be our Grandparents and Special Friends Day. While we do not invite you into our environment on this day, we will be preparing special gifts for our Grandparents. The children at this age have a hard time understanding when grandparents come then must leave and don't take them with them. We thank you for understanding as we keep their day within their sense of order and free of upset.

### Picture Retakes

If your child was absent or unable to take their photo in October, or you need retakes of your current picture, our picture retake day will be next week, Wednesday November 7th at 8:30am. Please contact the office to RSVP, so you may be added to their list.

November 19th -23rd, Thanksgiving Holiday-No school

Monday, November 26th - Transition Meeting; Nest students moving up to Primary  
 This is a transition meeting to prepare parents and give them insight to their child moving up to the Primary environment. This meeting includes an overview, observation, and time allowed to answer questions. While we prepare your children for future transitions it is also important to communicate information to our parents as each transition for your child is also a transition for our parents.



Mashing our bananas for our healthy cookies



Washing the pumpkin, getting ready for carving.

Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.

Maria Montessori