

## The Absorbent Mind – Maria Montessori

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*Figure 1: Child looking up*

The Absorbent Mind is one of five Montessori-style principles. This principle states that children are ready and eager to learn. Maria Montessori herself states: “It may be said that we acquire knowledge by using our minds; but the child absorbs knowledge directly into his psychic life. Simply by continuing to live, the child learns to speak his native tongue”.

Children are always interacting with their environment. They use all their developing senses to live and understand the world around them, ie. they are constantly learning! This should be cultivated by surrounding the child in an environment where they are exposed to multiple different stimuli in a controlled and safe manner. This is not to say to let your child roam freely on their own and get into whatever they please – but that, by cultivating and creating an environment for them where they can explore different textures, sounds, and visually appealing stimuli, we can teach the child so much in using so little.

It is important in Montessori style teaching to be there as a teaching presence, but to allow the child to discover on their own. Your child is leading the learning! Choices and options for exploration and discovery are when we can allow for true education to take place. We should always be there to step in and redirect, when necessary, but give the child the ability to discover on their own – safely, of course!

If you have more questions about Maria Montessori’s principles, check out:

[American Montessori Society](#)