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Quotations from Presentations
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**Dr. Montessori's View of Creative Development:
Providing the Path for Creative Expression**

It is the child who has the power to create the human personality suited to his living conditions, and the positive power to adjust himself to the environment into which he is born. The child is born with this special power to create, not only the man who finds life easy in the conditions of his environment, but also to incarnate the spiritual ideas of the group to which he belongs. Why is it so? It is because the child has the power to create the adults of that group. Creative Development, V. 1. page 2

Creativity is about liberating human energy. Howard Gardner

Creativity is the process of developing ideas that are original and of value. Creative intelligence is dynamic, diverse, and distinct. Sir Ken Robinson

Imagination is more important than knowledge. Albert Einstein

We really need to stop considering thinking (which leads to creativity) as simply 'intelligence in action' and think of it as a skill that can be developed by everyone. Edward De Bono

The child is impelled by the opportunities given to him. He is full of the possibilities of construction. He is the builder of man. Hence the oft-quoted

phrase - "The child is the Father of man." Creative Development, V. 1, page 4

Exploration and Skill Development: The Foundation of Creative Expression

"Every abstraction needs material to begin with, material around which it may be centered. The intelligence becomes acute only in that field, in which it has access to material. Thus material is necessary for the life of the intelligence, for the development of the intelligence. Once the intelligence has acquired a certain maturity, it no longer requires that material, but requires a different material in order to go forward."

Creative Development, Volume II, page 11

"In drawing itself there are various elements, for example, outline and color. We help the child by having him trace the outlines of the insets and fill in the figures with lines. This prepares his hand by developing his muscular control." The Discovery of the Child, page 306

"We do not give lessons in drawing or in modeling, and yet many of our children know how to draw flowers, birds, landscapes and even imaginary scenes in an admirable way."

The Discovery of the Child, page 306

"This means that the child's hand becomes a means of communication, and, as we see, just as a child is continuously speaking, so he draws. He expresses himself with his vocal chords and with his hand, showing latent tendencies of which he himself is still unconscious." The Discovery of the Child, page 308

Exploration of the Sensorial Extensions and Language Materials Leading to Creative Expression of Interest and Knowledge

*"It is a great help to be able to "handle" the notes, that is, the objects which produce the individual sounds. These objects are identical in every detail except for the sound they produce. Since they represent different sounds in a material way, they can be separated, mixed up, and then put back together again like other objects used in the training of the senses."
Discovery of the Child, page 316*

"One of the greatest gifts that we can give the child, if we know how to give it, with the importance and simplicity it deserves, are the letters of the alphabet. There is nothing more simple than the alphabet, yet no other invention has been more miraculous. These letters do not only allow us to make all the words that we can possibly think of, but also to understand any word that has been written in our language for hundreds of years. When these letters are offered to a tiny child, he must realise the importance of this science." Creative Development, Volume II, page 13

Mathematics in the Everyday Life of the Children's House

It is certainly interesting that the mind of man seeks a determination, an exactitude, because by means of these it can create things which are bigger. Great creations come from the mathematical mind, so we must always consider all that is mathematical as a means of mental development. It is certain that mathematics organizes the abstract path of the mind, so we must offer it an early age, in a Creative Development, V. I, page 134

"In the field of language we must not teach the child words which he already knows as something new. He has spoken the language and used the words in it for years. In the field of mathematics however, the child does not know anything. He may have distinguished a group of words which refer to quantity, but has no previous experience with numbers. He does not know the system which organises them. He has to understand the whole construction of numbers, counting from zero to ten. The introduction to numbers cannot be treated in the same manner as the introduction and analysis of language. Every step taken must be taken with a care not required in other fields, because it is entirely unknown." Creative Development Volume 11, page 22

Singing: The Development and importance for Primary Children

Contrary to the idea that children's singing voices have a limited range, I have found that even very young children with consistent ear and voice training are able and delighted to sing songs with a wide range.
Children's Songs, preface by Sanford Jones

Community can be defined as a set of interactions and expectations that have specific meaning to its members. Group music making, then, among children becomes intentional connective activity that creates specific artistic meaning to those who produce it. As children participate in musical activities together, their brains, bodies and hearts are engaged and singularly focused. Regina Carlow, page 4, Exploring the Connection Between Children's Literature and Music

They [the arts] are unique activities where mastery, imitation and imagination can be deliberately sustained and amplified through and beyond childhood, unlike overt play which tends to disappear. The arts are, and have always been, essential for developing and sustaining mind, as are other forms of representation, including language. And this development of mind is intrinsically rewarding, absorbing, exciting.

Sanwick, Music, Mind, and Education, page 50