

Concentration

The Magic Carpet of Montessori

Remember the stories of the magic carpet and how it could take you anywhere you wanted to go – to soar, to fly. Montessori concentration is as close as you can come to the proverbial magic carpet. When children climb aboard “concentration” they go amazing places and accomplish amazing things.

How do they find this magic carpet? Or maybe, better yet, how do they weave this magic carpet for themselves?

First, for the Montessori child, their day is not broken up into “bite-sized” pieces but it flows into the traditional three hour Montessori work period where you have time to start and to finish what you start and are not rudely interrupted every twenty minutes to do something else.

Second, your child is in a school that believes that concentration is not only possible but achievable and essential. And that young children are capable of amazing feats of concentration. Here, concentration is celebrated instead of interrupted.

Third, the work time, also, is not interrupted by well-meaning adults who tell you what you have done wrong (of course, to help your education.) Instead, you are given time – your own time – to figure out the puzzle of your own progress and to figure out the answers and the process for yourself.

Fourth, the child begins with activities that draw their interest and their attention. Here, curiosity is a driver and not a distractor. They begin this journey of concentration with joy and fascination wanting to follow their curiosity and to see the outcome of their search. They will work tirelessly and seemingly without effort as they concentrate.

Fifth, when the time comes to deal with other realities in the classroom (and life) that may not be as exciting or interesting (on the surface) they will have developed the ability to concentrate which will allow them to more quickly bring to completion the work at hand. Here, the ability to concentrate helps alleviate the future adult challenges of procrastination, foot dragging, avoidance and inaction. Because they have learned to concentrate they find that it takes less time to accomplish, even unlikeable tasks, than it takes to fret and dawdle over the project.

Sixth, concentration takes you on a journey deep into learning. It helps you get below the surface of your inquiry. Concentration allows you to find treasures that are not on the surface but which take time to mine. Concentration is a skill needed for the long run both in learning and life. When things, concepts, ideas don't give themselves up easily, it is concentration that helps you run the marathon. And in those situations in life where concentration and endurance are needed your child will be prepared. No better magic carpet available than that.