

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
MARIA MONTESSORI AND THE MONTESSORI METHOD	3
Introduction	3
Early Years	4
Medical School	6
Early Work with Children	7
The Casa Dei Bambini	14
The Development of the Method	20
Montessori Training and Schools	25
Last Years	29
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT	31
Introduction	31
Planes of Development	31
Research in Growth and Development	39
Growth and Development, Birth–3	46
Introduction	46
Conception and Inherited Characteristics	47
Growth and Development Before Birth	50
The Experience of Birth	53
Physical Growth and Development, Birth–3	55
Cognitive Development, Birth–3	62
Social Development, Birth–3	68
PUTTING THE MONTESSORI METHOD INTO PRACTICE	78
Introduction	78
Five of the Most Important Ideas in Montessori	81
Absorbent Mind	81
Sensitive Periods	82
Prepared Environment	83
Control of Error	84
Practical Life Skills	85

Preparing the Montessori Environment	86
Some Points to Consider in Setting Up a Montessori Program	86
Preparing the Montessori Indoor Physical Environment	90
Preparing the Montessori Outdoor Space	98
Preparing Yourself As a Montessori Caregiver	101
Appropriate Training	103
Mature Attitude and Behavior	105
Ability to Communicate with Other Adults	107
Ability to Communicate with Infants, Toddlers and Twos	114
Communicating with Young Children the Montessori Way	115
Prepare the Environment Carefully	116
Use Proactive Guidance Strategies	116
Make Socializing an Everyday Experience	120
Support Competence and Independence	121
Special Note on Toileting	123
Presenting Activities	134
Main Points to Consider	134
Modeling	139
Materials	140
A Summary of General Guidelines for Presenting Activities	142
MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT	145
General Materials Lists	145
Examples of Materials You Can Make	148
If You Have Been a Montessori Teacher	149
General Equipment List	150
INFORMATION FOR NEW GRADUATES	154
SEEKING PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE	
Introduction	154
Making a Good First Impression	154
Preparing for and Participating in an Interview	160
Using Forms Effectively	161

RESOURCES164

GLOSSARY169

