



Montessori Readings

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“Up to a few years ago carriages with wheels drawn by horses or bullocks were used as means of transportation. The harder the animals pulled the faster the carriages went. We could never at the time conceive of carriages without animals to pull them. Even though the carriage had wheels it could not move by itself . Later we understood if there is a motor inside the carriage it does not need horses or bullocks. It might be difficult to put this motor inside this carriage. It may cost a lot but with the changing times this has been rendered possible. Similarly the times have brought a change in the means by which the child advances on the road of culture and intellectual development. After all, the automobile can run even faster than a carriage pulled by ten horses.

Creative Development in the Child Vol. 2. Kalakshetra Publications 1999, pp 105-107







“There must be such a rapid progress in the intellectual field as well. The teacher must then arrive at the point at which she says ‘I no longer pull this mental cart.’ She must renounce being the means by which the child’s intellect moves. Thus the child can achieve a far higher degree of progress in which the teacher must co-operate. In order that the carriage must go without the horses we cannot take away the horses and leave the carriage alone. The carriage will not go. The teacher must never forget this before detaching the horses the motor must be put into the carriage. Before renouncing her royal position she must kindle the interest of the child. Therefore the interest of the class is always alive in the teacher who feels very deeply responsible for each child. ”

Creative Development in the Child Vol. 2. Kalakshetra Publications 1999, pp 105-107



Most adults are glad when the child's defects disappear. To them the child is a vase full of defects. What then is education? Education is to them, a way to take away the defects. This is not our idea. The defects are not important. What is important is the strength of the child, the forces hidden in the child which are revealed and now have a chance to develop. From this step, the last rung of the ladder, the directive endeavour and guide we must follow must be the development of the child's power. This is the last chapter, the last step, the triumphant goal which represents the new force and the new strength of humanity, which represents our triumph as educators.

Maria Montessori Creative Development in the Child Vol. 2.