

**The need to have highly trained teachers in the 0-3 age group**  
**Important we get the first phase of development right because all children's experiences, emotions and behaviours will be carried into the next phase.**

Children of this age have such an Absorbent mind and are absorbing all images from the world. They have no filters so they absorb the good and the bad of their environment. If the teacher is highly trained he/she knows to observe and plan for this age group.

Children are growing at such a rapid rate and going through so many sensitive periods for movement and language and a teacher needs to understand this development and how to plan for these areas.

The environment need to be set- up so carefully and this environment needs to stay fixed and not constantly changed as children need so much structure and predictable routine in their lives. They need order and routine to feel safe and secure in their environment. They need an adult who knows how to observe and carefully plan experiences to suit their individual needs.

A teacher needs to have expansive knowledge of child development, expansive experience in how to observe the children and plan for them, expansive knowledge on how to prepare environments suitable for different age groups.

**One important point which needs to be considered in this discussion is the educator. Are we setting our educators up for success if we place them in a situation for which they have not has the education or training?**

**Quotes**

"The studies which have been made of early infancy leave no room for doubt: the first two years are important for ever, because in that period, one passes from being nothing into being something." (San Remo Lectures, 1949)

"Others, as a result of careful study, have come to the conclusion that the first two years are the most important in the whole span of human life." (The Absorbent Mind, p. 4)

"There are many who hold, as I do, that the most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six. **For that is the time when man's intelligence itself, his greatest implement, is being formed. But not only his intelligence; the full totality of his psychic powers.**" (The Absorbent Mind, p. 21)

"The greatness of the human personality begins at the hour of birth." (The Absorbent Mind, p. 4)

"During this early period, education must be understood as a help to the unfolding of the child's inborn psychic powers." (The Absorbent Mind, p. 4)

"All that we ourselves are has been made by the child, by the child we were in the first two years of our lives.