Meaningful Materials

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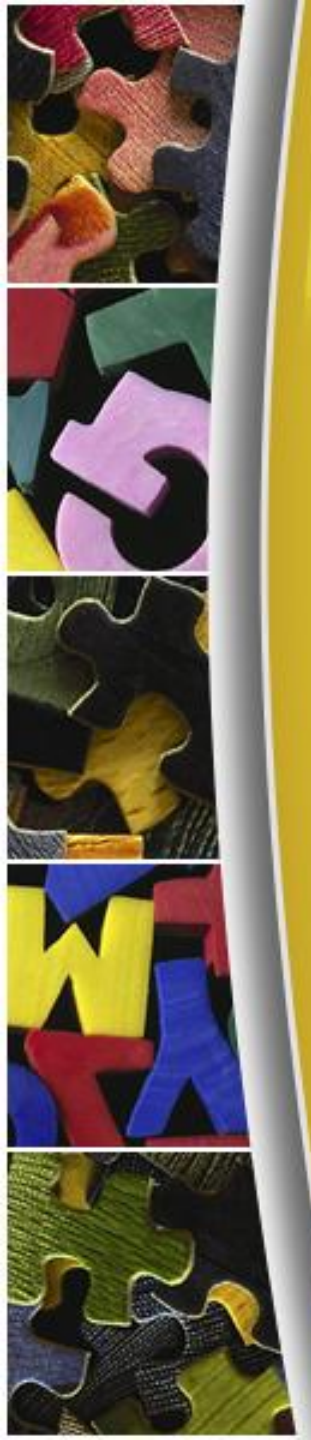
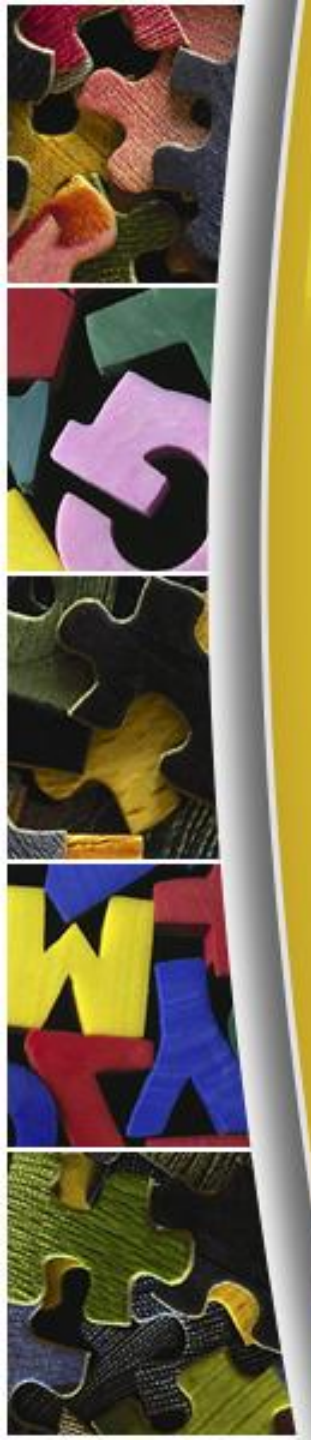


Goal of Early Childhood Education

- To cultivate a child's own desire to learn
- To allow each child to experience the excitement of learning by own choice, rather than being forced
- Help the child to perfect natural tools for learning so the child's ability will be at a maximum in future learning situations

How Children Learn

- Children from infancy to around seven have the ability to learn by “absorbing” information from the environment
- Use of inviting, meaningful, purposeful, and intentional materials
- The child’s “hand” is the chief teacher when the child is allowed to reinforce his casual impressions of a material by inviting the child to use his hands for actual learning

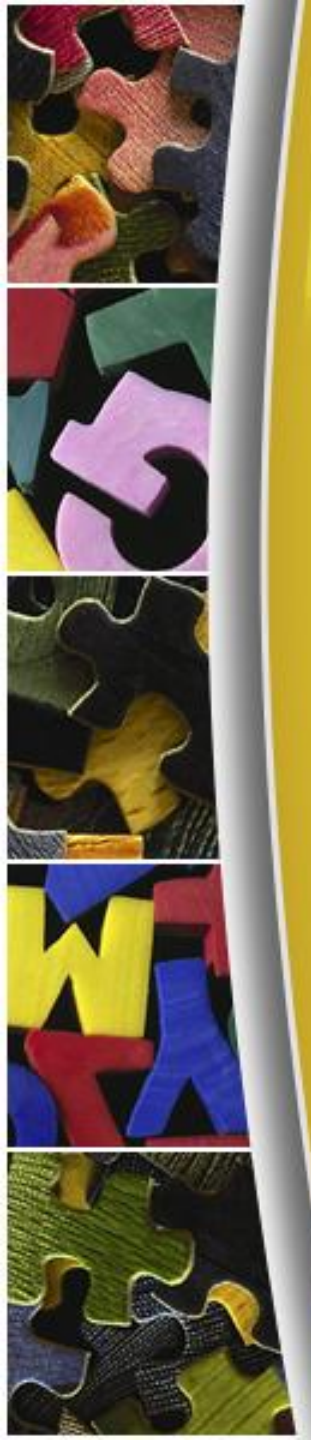


Importance of the Early Years

- From conception to age 4, the individual develops 50% of his mature intelligence
- From ages 4 to 8 he develops another 30%

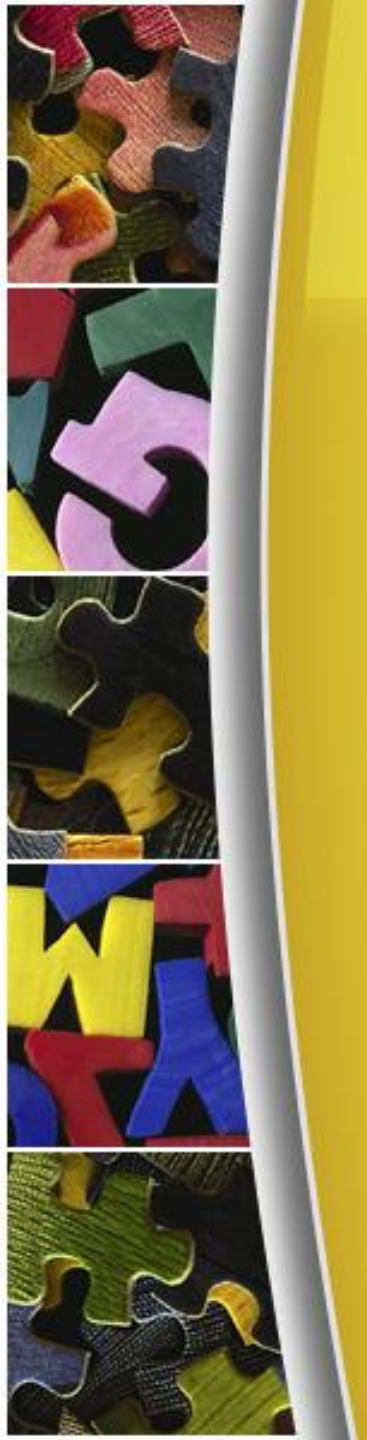
Dr. Benjamin S. Bloom of the University of Chicago, wrote in Stability and Change in Human Characteristics

Since 80% of the child's mental development takes place before he is 8 years old, the importance of favorable conditions during these years can hardly be over emphasized.



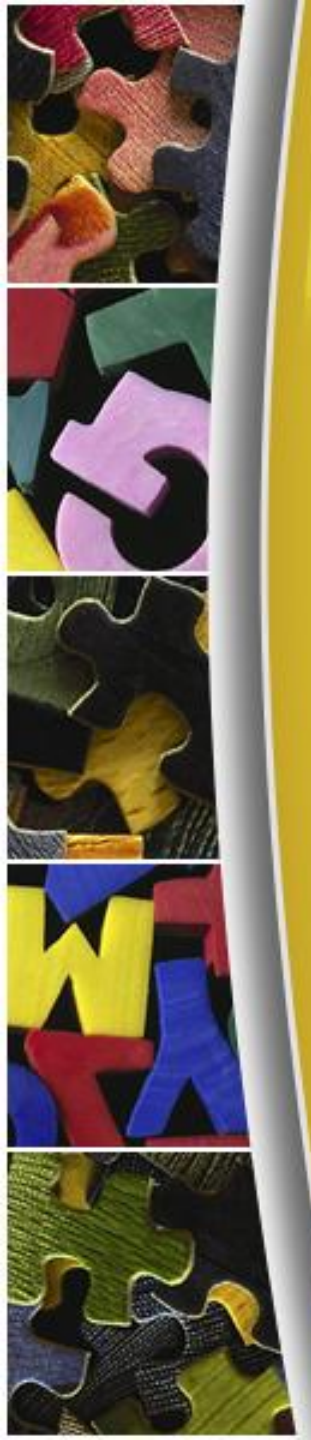
Creating “Favorable” Conditions

- Properly Prepare the Environment
- Choice in Materials
- Implementation of Lessons and Activities that support the stages of development and allow for engagement in appropriate academic scope and sequence



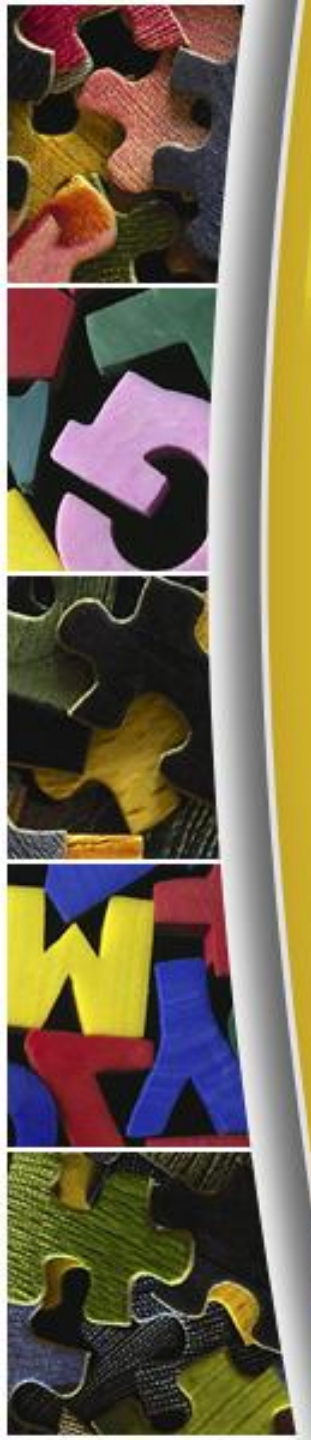
“The objects surrounding the child should look solid and attractive to him, and the “house of the child” should be lovely and pleasant in all its particulars…It is almost possible to say that there is a mathematical relationship between the beauty of his surroundings and the activity of the child; he will make discoveries rather more voluntarily in a gracious setting then in an ugly one.”

– Maria Montessori



Meaningful Lessons

- Practical Life Exercises
- Sensorial Exercises
- Learning to Write
- From Writing to Reading
- Introduction to Mathematics
- The Golden Bead and Fraction Materials
- Mathematical Operations
- Geography, Botany, and Grammar
- Group Activities



Practical Life Exercises

- Using the child's natural inclinations as a point of departure, practical life exercises help the child satisfy his need for meaningful activity
- Practical Life uses familiar objects to teach:
  - Care of Self
  - Care of Environment
  - Graces and Courtesies
  - Control of Movement

Practical Life Exercises

- Dressing Frames
- Pouring Activities
- Transferring Activities
- Polishing
- Table Washing
- Scrubbing Activities
- Flower Arranging
- Dish washing
- Cutting, Scraping, Peeling, and Juicing
- Sweeping
- Feeding

Sensorial Exercises

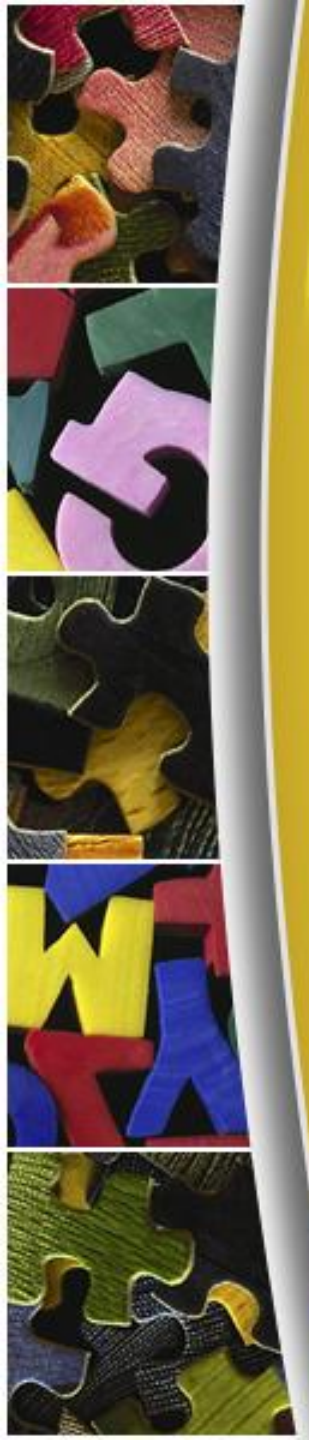
- Sensorial materials help the child to become aware of details by offering, at first, strongly contrasted sensations and then variously graded sensations
- Each sensorial material isolate one defining quality such as color, weight, shape, texture, size, sound, smell, etc.
- Sensory impressions are not enough by themselves, the mind needs education and training to be able to discriminate and appreciate

Sensorial Exercises

- Pink Tower
- Brown Stairs
- Red Rods
- Smelling Jars
- Color Tablets
- Grading the Colors
- Baric Tablets
- Sound Boxes
- Bells
- Swatches
- Geometric Solids
- Geometric Cabinet
- Constructive Triangles
- Cylinder Blocks

Learning to Write

- To be able to write, a child must develop a two-fold skill: commit to memory the shape of the letter and their corresponding sound, and he must develop the muscular skill necessary for using the pencil
- For a child to acquire both skills at the same time is often discouraging and frustrating
- Materials should offer the child the opportunity to learn the shapes and sounds of the letter in a way that is completely independent from his perfection of the motor skill.



Learning to Write

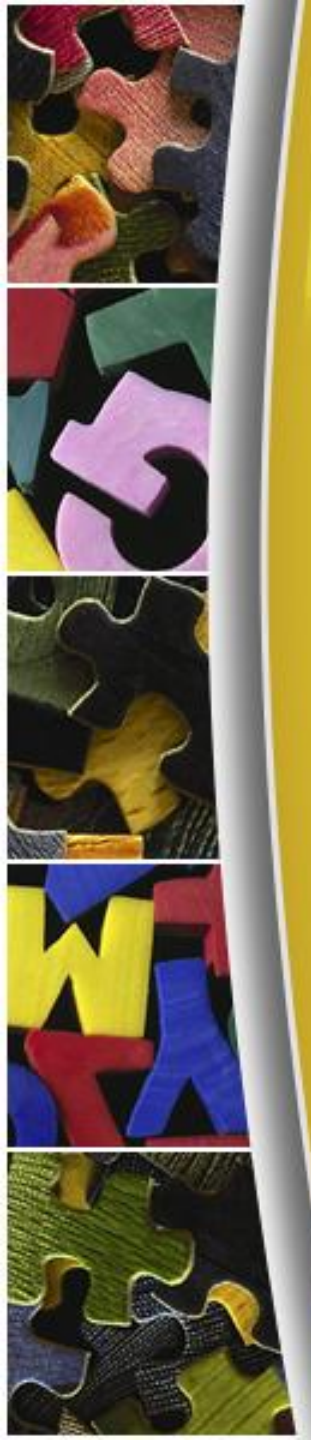
- Sandpaper Letters
- Metal Insets
- Push Pin Punching
- Rainbow Writing

From Writing to Reading

- Children have a natural sensitivity for language development.
- Children 3 – 5 have a unique fascination for words, both printed and spoken.
- Individual presentation of language materials allows the teacher to take advantage of the each child's greatest periods of interest
- Reading instruction can begin on the day when the child wants to know what a word says or when the child show interest

From Writing to Reading

- Sound Table
- Moveable Alphabet
- Matching Words and Pictures
- Command Cards
- Phonograms



Introduction to Mathematics

- A child can learn basic concepts of mathematics in either two ways: he can learn by using concrete materials her enjoys manipulating; or he can learn by abstract methods when he is in elementary grades
- By using mathematical materials in a child's early years, he can easily and joyfully assimilate many facts and skills of arithmetic.

Introduction to Mathematics

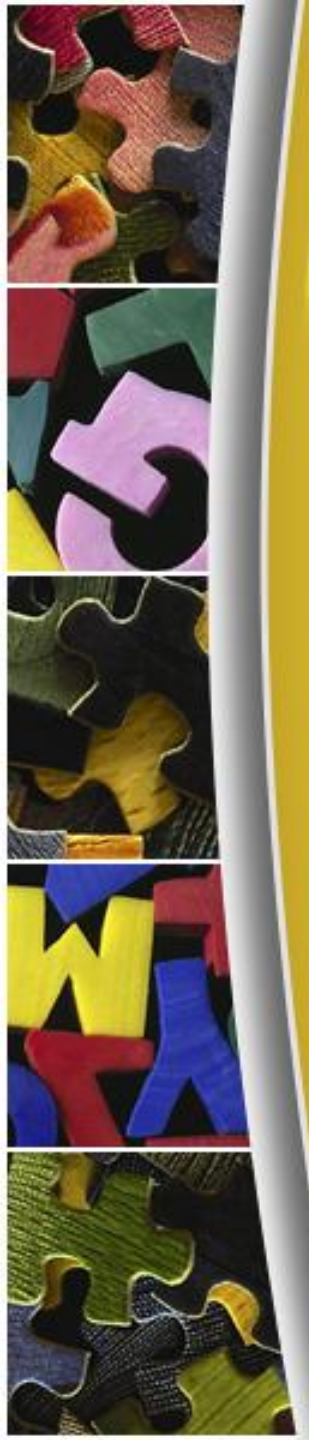
- Red and Blue Rods
- Spindle Boxes
- Numerals and Counters
- Seguin Boards

The Golden Bead and Fraction Materials

- Used to illustrate the decimal system
- Add units and Divide units
- Count large quantities
- Build quantities

Mathematical Operations

- Mathematical facts can be learned by actually performing the operations with concrete materials.

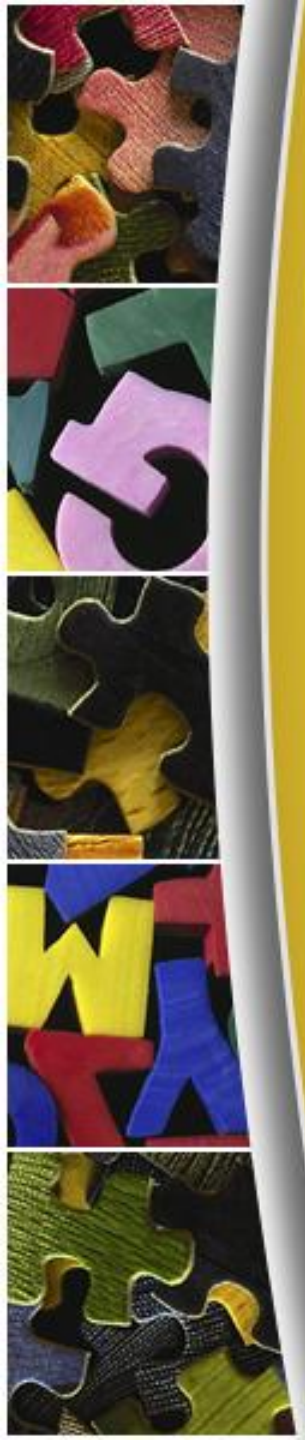


Mathematical Operations

- Short Bead Stair
- Squaring and Cubing Material
- Multiplication
- Subtraction
- Division Board
- Strip Board
- Snake Game
- Dot Game
- Stamp Game

Geography

- Globes
- Puzzle Maps
- Land and Water Formations



Grammar

- Games with color-coded parts of speech words

Botany

- Nature puzzles
- Word cards

Group Activities

- Walking the Line
- Silence Game

- If it’s not meaningful…
- If it’s not purposeful…
- If it’s not intentional…

- It’s not happening!

Meaningful Materials

Will be available to download at
www.foundationsacademies.com/resources