



# Cosmic Education

THE KEYSTONE TO MONTESSORI EDUCATION

MARGARET RIVER MONTESSORI SCHOOL -

PRESENTED BY LEE-ANNE FRENCH

# Tunes into the philosophical shift of the 6-12 year old child



**THE ELEMENTARY CHILD TURNS OUTWARD, MOVES TO ABSTRACTION & DEVELOPS A CONSCIENCE.**

TO MISS THIS SENSITIVE PERIOD FOR MORAL DEVELOPMENT IS TO MISS THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY IMAGINABLE, FOR THESE MOMENTS WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE.

Lights the fires of the child's  
imagination, inspires their learning...

**COSMIC EDUCATION is the most natural, intelligent & inspiring approach for elementary education. It is designed to fuel the child's drive & meet every need for his or her self-construction. The possibilities are endless & their imaginations are limitless.**



They are ready!

**THEY ARE  
READY.**

**ELEMENTARY CHILDREN  
NEED TO VIEW THE UNIVERSE  
AS A WHOLE.**



# Montessori's vision of the Universe is of INTERCONNECTEDNESS

- ▶ We have evolved this way.
- ▶ We must continue to evolve by our own efforts.
  
- ▶ Unity of humankind with each other- one race, one people.
  
- ▶ HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY (or COSMIC TASK) is
- ▶ To continue the work of creation.
- ▶ To keep nature harmonious
- ▶ To uplift oneself towards this

# Educational Implications

- ▶ **For little children;** everything has a purpose, nobody is too small to help. The function of the child is to inspire LOVE.
- ▶ **For older children;** Gifts and privileges bring responsibility, the function of the older child is to produce change, not now but later. Their present function is to learn about life and its interconnectedness.
- ▶ **For teenagers;** To see what is to be changed, ideally. To learn to work with and trust peers.
- ▶ **For young adults;** Work towards producing a change by maintaining ideals and learning how it might be done.
- ▶ **For middle aged adults;** to bring about change
- ▶ **For old people;** To give wisdom and guidance gained from having experienced life, and cause and affect.

# Dr Montessori's vision... is STILL relevant!

## Cosmic Education and the World

- Her major work explaining Cosmic Education and its implications was the book "To Educate the Human Potential," published in 1948.

TO EDUCATE THE  
HUMAN POTENTIAL  
THE MONTESSORI SERIES



Maria Montessori

# The Overview (The How)

## The Story of the Universe

*Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Astronomy and Geography*

## The Story of Life

*Botany and Zoology*

## The Coming of Humans

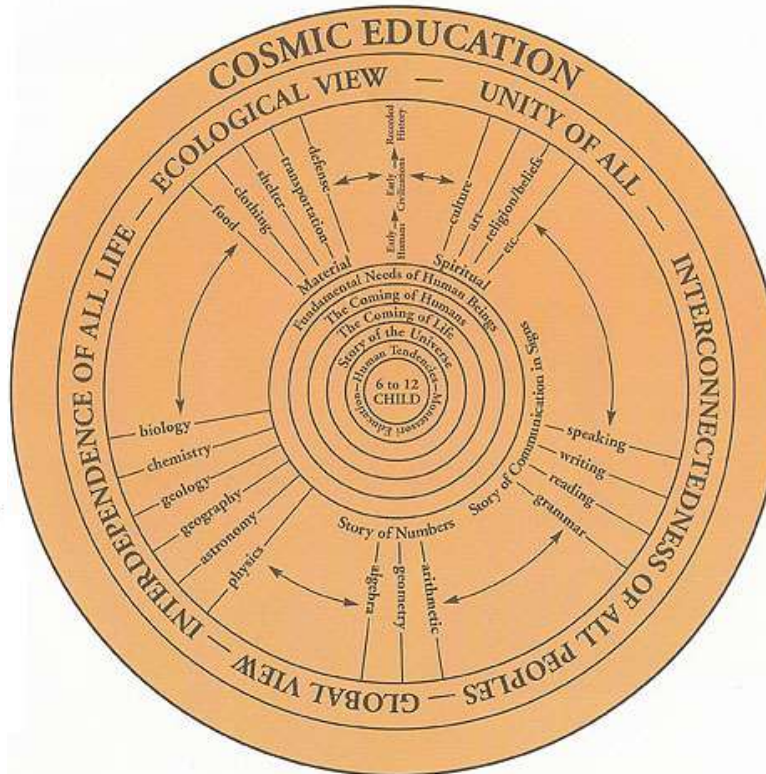
*Fundamental needs of man both spiritual and material, Pre History and World Civilizations*

## The Story of Numbers

*Arithmetic, Geometry (plane and solid) and Algebra*

## The Story of Communication

*World Languages, Reading, Writing, Prose Poetry, Drama and Grammar*





# The Story of the Universe



- \* Start with The Story of the Universe.
- \* Show them how elements obey their laws & play their parts.
- \* Help them discover how every particle serves its purpose.



# The narrative, experiments and demonstrations



# The Coming of Life



# The Coming of the Human Beings

including the Study of a Nation, Ancient Civilisations



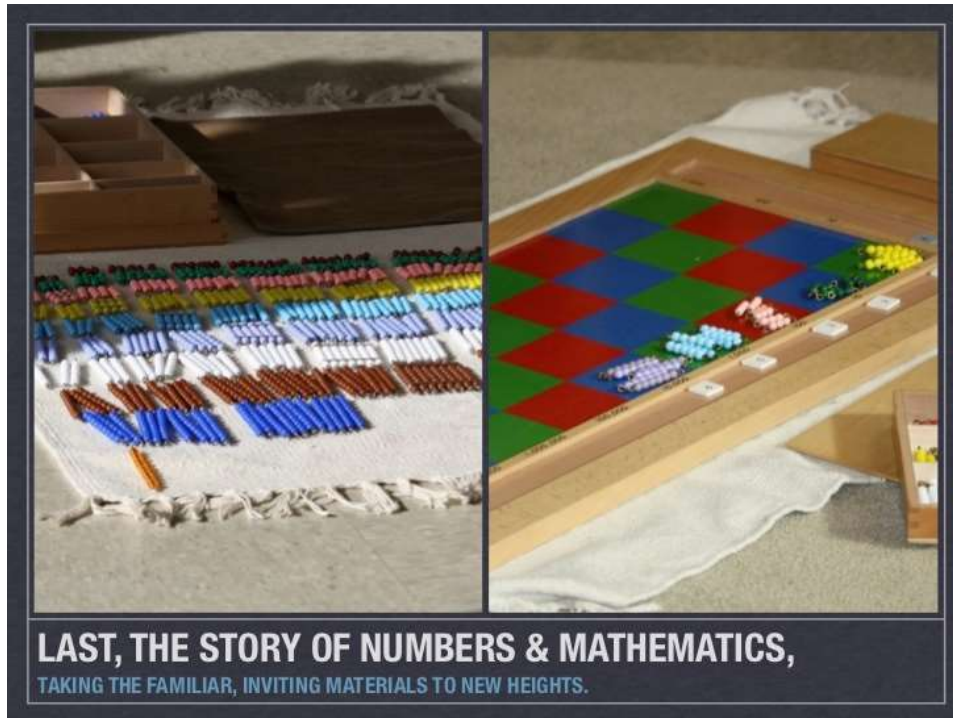
# The Story of Writing



The image is a composite graphic. On the left side, there is a grid of 16 small squares, each containing a different cursive letter or symbol. The letters are labeled with their corresponding words: 'b' (bottle), 'c' (cobra), 'd' (hillside), 'e' (open mouth), 'f' (fiddle rope), 'g' (goat), 'h' (owl), 'i' (ing & stair), 'j' (jar), 'k' (key), 'l' (leaf), 'm' (mountain), 'n' (nose), 'o' (open mouth), 'p' (pen), 'q' (quill), 'r' (read leaf), 's' (snake), 't' (top), 'u' (up), 'v' (vase), 'w' (water), 'x' (box), 'y' (yarn), and 'z' (zebra). On the right side, there is a photograph of a classroom where a group of children are sitting in a circle on the floor, engaged in a discussion or activity. A teacher is standing at the front of the circle.

**NEXT, THE STORY OF WRITING & COMMUNICATION.**  
PENMANSHIP & WRITING PRACTICE OF THE PRIMARY YEARS TAKE ON A NEW FOCUS.

# The Story of Numbers



# The WHY?

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# Towards a more connected humankind



## Cosmic Education and the World

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Maria Montessori believed that Cosmic Education produces a new kind of human being - a new stage of evolution - where we become *conscious* of our unity:

- with other humans
- with all life and planet Earth
- with the universe itself



# The future – Raising peaceful human beings

- ▶ Dr Montessori believed that the world was a highly ordered and purposeful place; that war and poverty, ignorance and injustice were deviations from that purpose. She believed that the way back to harmony and order was through children, as it was the children who were innocent of corruption and carried with them the imprint of normalcy.
- ▶ She believed that there were **two things necessary for raising peaceful human beings: an awareness of interdependence and the sense of gratitude** that comes from that awareness. By providing a holistic, therefore Cosmic education, children receiving these lessons learn to be grateful to previous generations so that they may benefit from their knowledge. Children are also exposed, not just to humans, but all the elements and forces of nature, the plants, the animals (extant and extinct), the rocks, the oceans, the forests - even the molecules and atomic particles. These subtexts of gratitude echo constantly in the Montessori elementary classroom and children gain a sense of importance, purpose, and responsibility, which they carry into adulthood while seeking a joyful vocation.

# Teaching Peace, Social Justice and Environmental Respect through Cosmic Education

