

Maria Montessori

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Who is Maria Montessori?

Maria Montessori, born in 1870 Italy, is the theorist behind the Montessori method of teaching. In recent times, the theory has become popular among parents and teachers alike who wish to allow their children the opportunity to lead their own education. According to Baligadoo, 2014, Montessori was the first woman in her country to graduate with a Doctor of Medicine degree. She was strongly encouraged through her life to break barriers and rewrite what a woman was able to do, as at the time the world was far off equality for men and women. Montessori was an inspiration for new methods of education and supporting children in supporting themselves.

What is her theory?

According to Faryadi, 2007, Montessori believed that minimum interception was required by adults regarding children's learning. Montessori's theory focused on allowing the child to direct their own learning, choose their own subjects, and being allowed autonomy surrounding their learning. Montessori believed that support and teaching was only required where necessary, and if not completely necessary, then the child should be allowed to teach themselves and gain a stronger understanding. Sensory input in learning was seen as important in this theory, and Montessori argued that by applying visual, auditory and vestibular (movement, balance) senses, learning is more strongly encouraged. Rich, 2015 states that her theory promotes cognitive development through a hands-on, independent approach.



The Montessori Method

- The Montessori method of teaching is one that has shown promise in the classroom. According to Catherine, *et al* (2020), there are four pillars associated with the method. "The *sensitive periods*, the *education of the senses*, the *prepared environment* and *spontaneous activities through repetition*" Catherine, *et al* (2020)

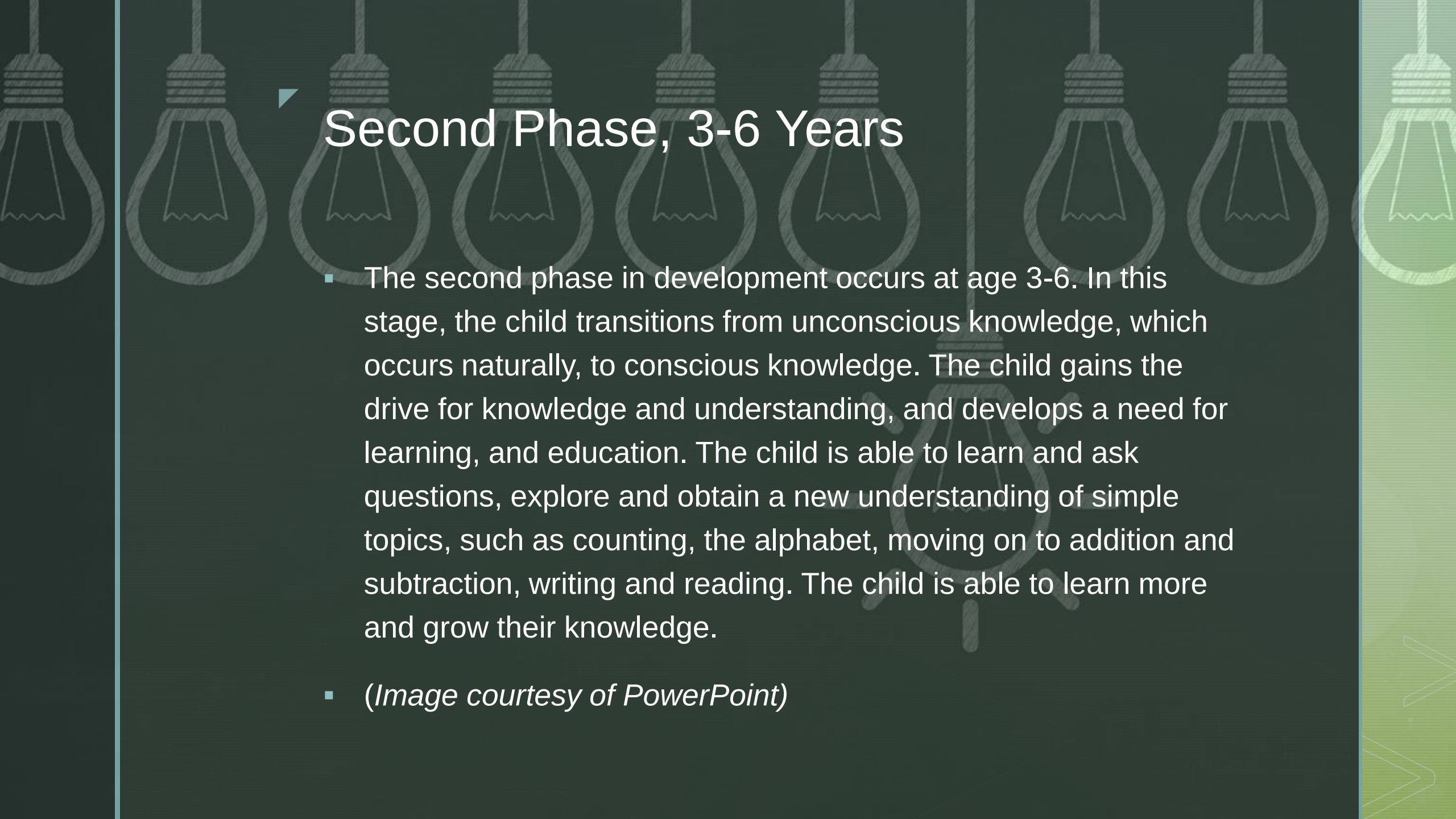
Development phases

- According to Catherine, *et al.* 2020. , there are multiple different phases of development. These phases of development last from birth to death, however focus around childhood and adolescence. These development phases focus around development and different areas of learning, more so different types of learning, and how the child progresses and gains more need for development and understanding as they grow.

First Stage, 0-3 Years

- The first stage of development. This stage focuses on instinctive development, which focuses on the development of skills that the child has an innate drive to learn. These skills are ones necessary to survival, such as the natural ability to breathe, reflexes babies are born with, talking and walking, etc.



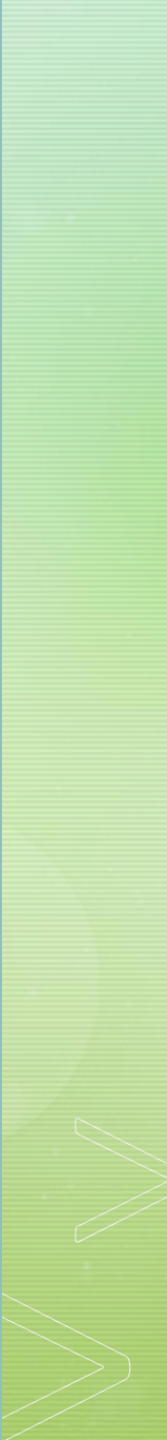


Second Phase, 3-6 Years

- The second phase in development occurs at age 3-6. In this stage, the child transitions from unconscious knowledge, which occurs naturally, to conscious knowledge. The child gains the drive for knowledge and understanding, and develops a need for learning, and education. The child is able to learn and ask questions, explore and obtain a new understanding of simple topics, such as counting, the alphabet, moving on to addition and subtraction, writing and reading. The child is able to learn more and grow their knowledge.
- *(Image courtesy of PowerPoint)*

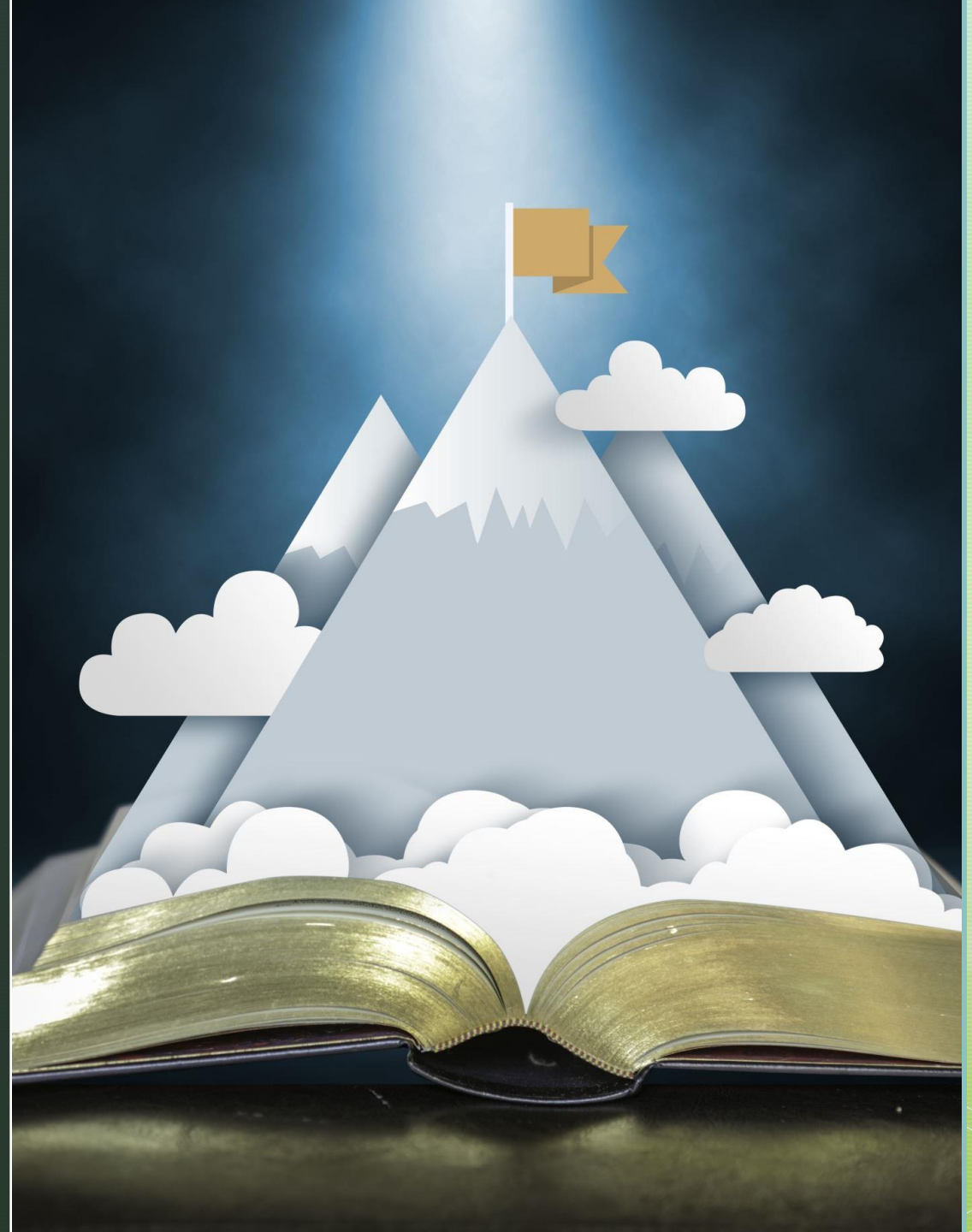


Third Phase, 6-12 Years

- In this third stage, the child begins to gain a broader understanding of the universe and the world around us, becoming more aware of their surroundings. They begin to learn more, and their drive for further knowledge grows stronger, leading to them grasping for new opportunities to learn. They also begin to understand their role in society and who they are.
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Fourth and Final Stage, 12+ Years

- This final stage follows the individual to 18, but also onwards throughout the rest of their life. They are now focused on adapting to the society they live in, becoming who they are. Their need for knowledge also grows, and they search for wider knowledge. This continues on for the rest of their life.
- *(Image courtesy of Powerpoint)*





Within a KS1 classroom

- KS1 is students who are 5-7 years old in a primary school. AKA, Year 1 and year 2. Children of this age focus on:
 - English
 - Maths
 - Science
 - History
 - Geography
 - Music
 - Art and Design
 - Design and technology
 - RE
 - Welsh

Overall, how can this benefit children in KS1?



Allows children to feel in control of their environment, develop confidence in their own abilities, and learn to respond positively to challenges, or setbacks. (LEARNING, T.E.I., 2008)



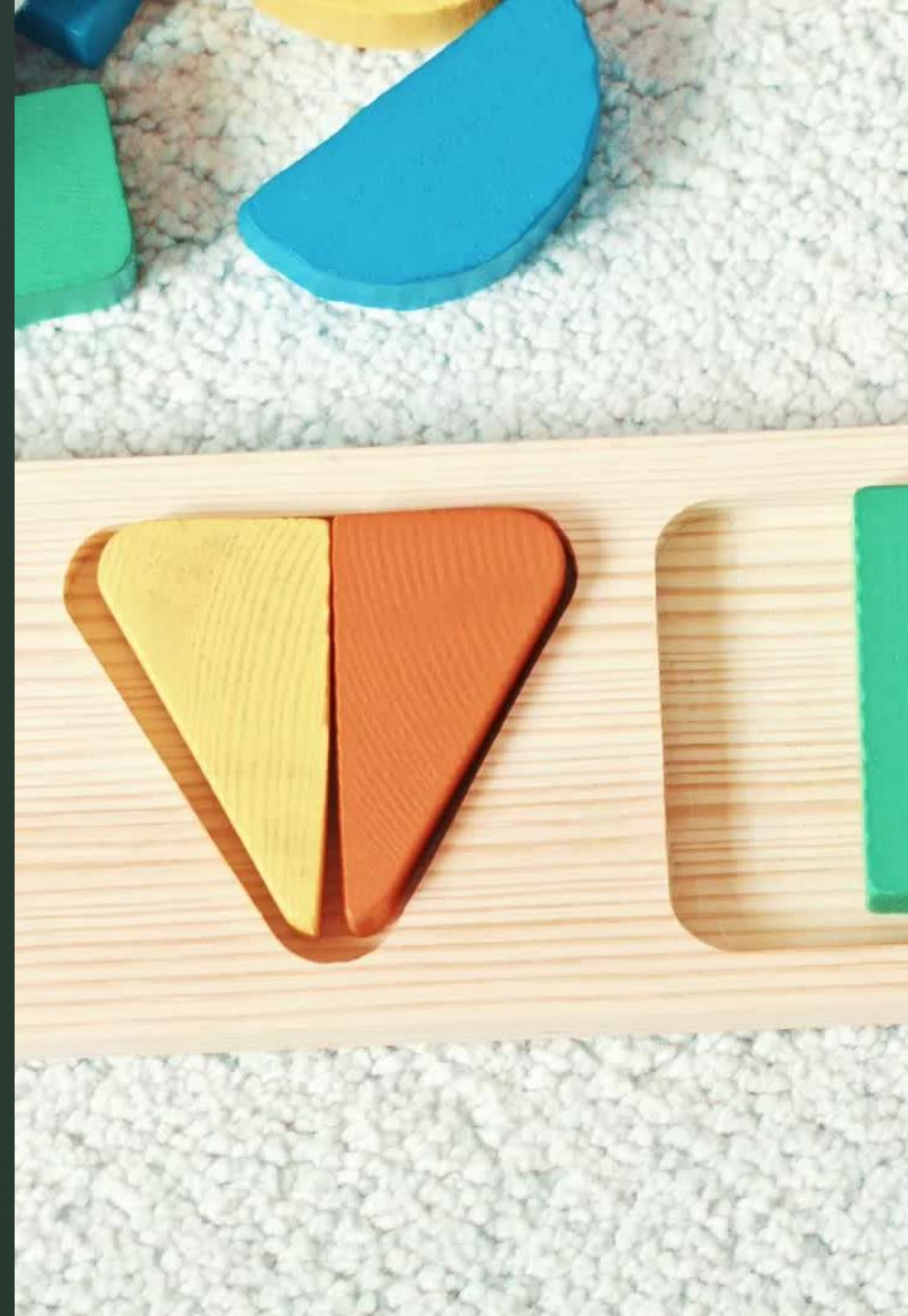
Montessori settings show a high correlation between growth in relationship with teacher, and the time in the program. It also shows a significant difference in family relationships. This is in comparison to typical public schools. (Zarybnisky, 2010)



Students in Montessori settings are shown to perform higher in tests, showing that the more hands on and independent approach may promote growth and learning. (Culclasure, 2018)

Lesson Planning; According to Montessori

- According to Montessori, allowing the child themselves to have independent learning time is important, as exploring the task and learning through doing can help them better understand and remember what they are doing. With this in mind, I have created multiple lesson plans to support children in a Montessori classroom.
- *(Image courtesy of Powerpoint)*





Phonics is how children in KS1 learn their sounds and work on being able to say them.



For every card turned over, the child must say the sound, then look for the pair.



The pairs can be put to one side and the game continues.

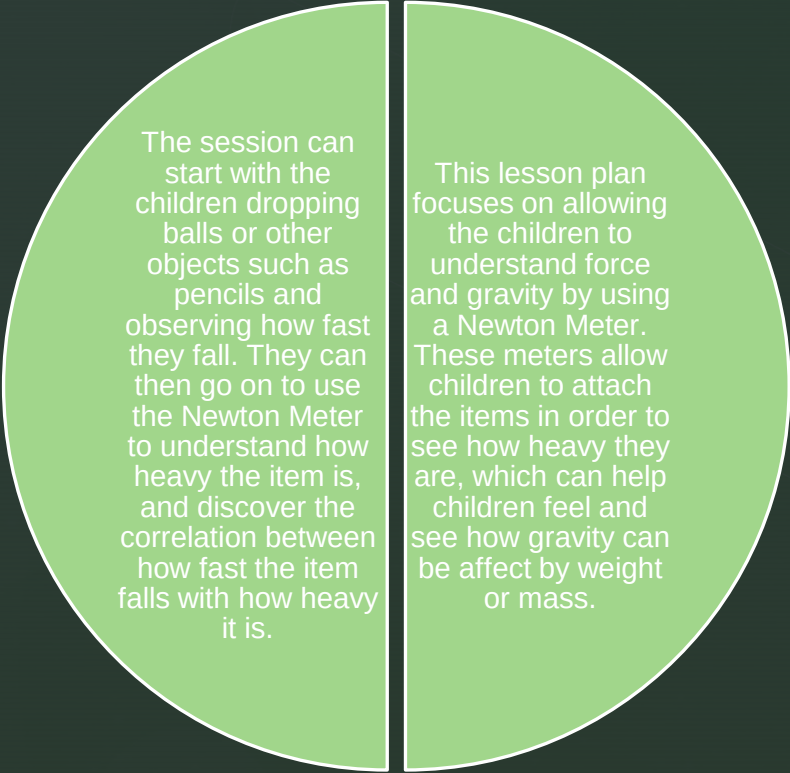
Phonics matching cards

How does this relate to Montessori?

Montessori believes that children should be the leader in their own learning (see previous slides). This interactive matching cards game can be led by the child rather than an adult, and they can use it to learn at their own pace.

Using a Newton meter

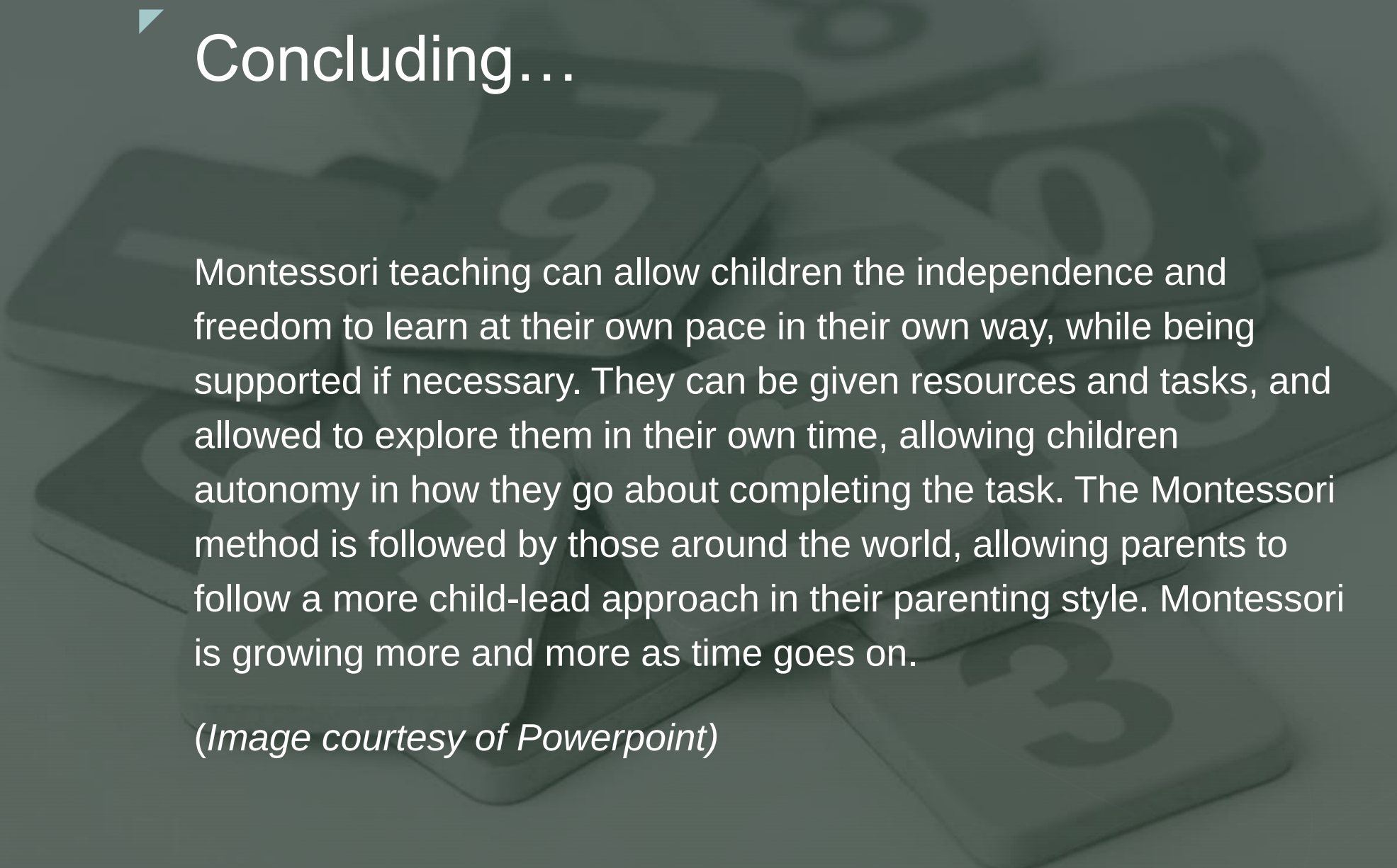
How does this relate to Montessori?



The session can start with the children dropping balls or other objects such as pencils and observing how fast they fall. They can then go on to use the Newton Meter to understand how heavy the item is, and discover the correlation between how fast the item falls with how heavy it is.

This lesson plan focuses on allowing the children to understand force and gravity by using a Newton Meter. These meters allow children to attach the items in order to see how heavy they are, which can help children feel and see how gravity can be affected by weight or mass.

This allows the children to work with the Newton Meter alone and see gravity working. The children are able to do the experiment themselves with minimal intervention, helping them witness and understand gravity as a force and how it works.



Concluding...

Montessori teaching can allow children the independence and freedom to learn at their own pace in their own way, while being supported if necessary. They can be given resources and tasks, and allowed to explore them in their own time, allowing children autonomy in how they go about completing the task. The Montessori method is followed by those around the world, allowing parents to follow a more child-lead approach in their parenting style. Montessori is growing more and more as time goes on.

(Image courtesy of Powerpoint)

Lucia's References

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- *Images specified have been accessed from Powerpoint on 28/02/24.*