

# Puppy Dog Room October News Notes

As Dr. Montessori made observations in her first classroom in Rome, she was often amazed by what she saw the children doing. She wondered if their accomplishments were "*the work of angels*". She would say to herself, "*I won't believe this time. I will wait until the next time to believe.*" (**The Secret of Childhood**). She would later write of these amazing accomplishments as the seeds of normalization. Dr. Montessori described normalization as "*The natural or normal state for a human being.*"

Normalization is characterized by four attributes:

1. A love of work or activity
2. Concentration on an activity
3. Self-discipline
4. Sociability or joyful work

As a directress in the room I am always looking to support the children in developing or acting on a work cycle. You can observe a work cycle when you see a child choose a work, return the work, and then move on to another work. These deceptively simple steps are where the real magic happens. For it is through the work cycle that a child builds concentration, independence, order and coordination.

*"A child who has become master of his acts through long and repeated exercises, and who has been encouraged by the pleasant and interesting activities in which he has been engaged, is a child filled with health and joy and remarkable for his calmness and discipline. When the cycle is completed, the child detaches himself from his internal concentration; refreshed and satisfied, he experiences the higher social impulses, such as desiring to make confidences and to hold intimate communion with other souls."* Dr. Maria Montessori, **The Advanced Montessori Method**.

This is a wonderful time of the year to watch your child through the viewing window. First year students have mastered many beginning works and are branching out to try new works. Second year students are moving naturally along the shelves from simple to more complex works. The learning process is cumulative and the third year students show the culmination of the three year cycle.