

Puppy Dog 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. Popular new works in the practical life area are:



Sock washing with a washboard and



juicing oranges.