

## Weekly Montessori Moment

### Week #2

“Man himself must become the center of education and we must never forget that man does not develop only at the university, but begins his mental growth at birth, and pursues it with greatest intensity during the first three years of his life.”

Maria Montessori has referred to the child from 0-3 as having what she called an “unconscious absorbent mind.” Here we find a child who, with very little effort, soaks in everything within his or her environment like a sponge. When we consider all that the child is able to accomplish in three short years of life, from the helpless newborn to the explorative toddler and beyond, it is not surprising to consider the unique mental state of the child during these formative years.

“The child observes his surroundings and experience has shown us that his tendency is to take in everything. He does not merely take in by means of his camera-like eye, but a kind of psycho-chemical reaction takes so that these impressions form an integral part of his psyche.”

### Further Reading

*Absorbent Mind*, Maria Montessori