

My passion about the Universe story that I shared with my Montessori students and my sense of gratitude deepened, widened, and exploded while participating in Deep Time course. The concept of Allurement and its intimate relationship between our Interiority and the Universe, soared into my soul.

Suddenly Dr. Montessori's belief that *choice* was key in education and central within early childhood took on a deeper, clearer reality. Within a prepared environment a child who selects a material that "calls" to her, not only concentrates with rapt attention but also feels a true sense of self and honors that innate, inborn force for self realization.

*"The child should not be regarded as a feeble and helpless creature whose only need is to be protected and helped, but as a spiritual embryo, possessed of an active psychic life from the day that he is born and guided by subtle instincts enabling him to actively build up the human personality ..."*

Maria Montessori. Education and Peace

*"If education recognizes the intrinsic value of the child's personality and provides an environment suited to spiritual growth, we have the revelation of an entirely new child, whose astonishing characteristics can eventually contribute to the betterment of the world."*

Maria Montessori. Peace and Education

Consider the potential for living the New Story if a person is allowed to follow that which enthuses the inmost soul, which allures the individual within the context of the global community, and the universe.

A few thoughts about the natural brilliance children, their natural allurements, and the importance of choice:

\*\*\*"Power is nothing if it is not the power to choose."  
Joseph Weizenbaum

\*\*\*About age 18 months it appeared that my grandson Atticus was interested in sparkly objects. His fascination with rocks, fossils, and gems flourished. By age 6, his fascination, study, and involvement with fossils has only deepened. I recall when he was about 4, we were looking at rocks. I mentioned that if he so chose, he could be a paleontologist when he was older. He put down the rock that he was studying, looked me straight on, and proclaimed, "I am a paleontologist."

\*\*\*"It takes a long time to grow young...it took me my whole life to learn to paint like a child again."  
Pablo Picasso

\*\*\*"Education begins with poetry"  
Confucius

\*\*\*"He who aspires to be a great poet must first become a little child"  
Macaulay

#### HAIKUS FROM CHILDREN AT THE WILHELM SCHOLE

Beautiful picture...  
Wet green grass painted by rain  
Shining sun returns. (*Ryoko 4 years*)

Up high in the sky  
Yellow balloon passing clouds  
Going to see God. (*Jessica 4 years*)

Grasshopper jumping  
Playing in the tall wet grass  
Oh! Rain sends him home. (*Lara 5 years*)

## And what is the natural allurement for children? A few thoughts:

“A child’s world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood.

If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantment of later years...the alienation from the sources of our strength...”

— *Rachel Carson, The Sense of Wonder*

“How often is the soul of man,  
especially that of a child, deprived because  
one does not put him in contact with nature...”

There is no description, no image in any book  
that is capable of replacing the sight of real trees,  
and all the life to be found around them...

Something emanates from those trees which speaks to the soul,  
something no book, no museum is capable of giving.  
The wood reveals that it is not only the trees that exist,  
but a whole collection of lives.

And this earth, this climate, this cosmic power,  
are necessary for the development of all these lives....

*Maria Montessori, From Childhood to Adolescence*

Richard Love, author of Last Child in the Woods told this story at an AMS conference. He has done extensive research about the “Nature Deficit in Children” and was presenting his findings to a Congressional committee. He was very aware of the lack of attention; he changed his tactics and began to talk about his experience when he was a boy and playing in a pond. Within seconds everyone became animated and started discussing their similar experiences as a child in nature.

\*\*\*“Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before the Great Mystery into which we were born.”

*Einstein*

\*\*\**The importance of the cosmological tradition is its power to awaken those deep convictions necessary for wisdom....*

It may be that in the new millennium spiritual orientation will be awakened and established with the young, primarily by meaningful encounters with the mysteries of the universe. The task of education then will focus on learning how to ‘read’ the universe so that one might enter and inhabit the universe as a communion event.”

Brian Swimme