MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS

MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS REPRESENT A DISTINCTIVE EDUCATIONAL APPROACH DESIGNED TO FOSTER INDEPENDENCE, CREATIVITY, AND CRITICAL THINKING IN CHILDREN. DEVELOPED BY DR. MARIA MONTESSORI IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, THESE METHODS EMPHASIZE HANDS-ON LEARNING, SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITY, AND COLLABORATIVE PLAY. UNLIKE TRADITIONAL TEACHING TECHNIQUES, MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS PRIORITIZE THE CHILD'S NATURAL CURIOSITY AND DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES, ENABLING PERSONALIZED LEARNING EXPERIENCES. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE CORE PRINCIPLES, TEACHING MATERIALS, AND BENEFITS OF THE MONTESSORI APPROACH, PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING FOR EDUCATORS AND PARENTS ALIKE. ADDITIONALLY, THE ARTICLE COVERS HOW MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS COMPARE TO CONVENTIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICAL TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION. THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS WILL DELVE DEEPER INTO THESE ASPECTS TO REVEAL WHY MONTESSORI REMAINS A HIGHLY REGARDED PEDAGOGICAL SYSTEM WORLDWIDE.

- Core Principles of Montessori Learning Methods
- MONTESSORI TEACHING MATERIALS AND ENVIRONMENT
- BENEFITS OF MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS
- COMPARISON WITH TRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES
- IMPLEMENTING MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS AT HOME AND SCHOOL

CORE PRINCIPLES OF MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS

Understanding the foundational principles of montessori learning methods is essential for appreciating its unique educational philosophy. These principles guide the structure and delivery of Montessori education, focusing on respect for the child's individuality and natural development.

CHILD-CENTERED LEARNING

Montessori learning methods are fundamentally child-centered, meaning the curriculum adapts to the child's interests, pace, and abilities rather than enforcing a standardized schedule. This approach empowers children to take ownership of their learning and develop intrinsic motivation.

PREPARED ENVIRONMENT

THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM IS METICULOUSLY DESIGNED TO SUPPORT EXPLORATION AND INDEPENDENCE. IT FEATURES ORGANIZED, ACCESSIBLE MATERIALS THAT ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO ENGAGE IN PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITIES, FOSTERING CONCENTRATION AND SELF-DISCIPLINE.

AUTOEDUCATION AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

A KEY ASPECT OF MONTESSORI IS THE BELIEF THAT CHILDREN LEARN BEST THROUGH SELF-DISCOVERY. MONTESSORI MATERIALS ALLOW FOR SELF-CORRECTION, ENABLING LEARNERS TO RECOGNIZE AND RECTIFY MISTAKES AUTONOMOUSLY, WHICH PROMOTES CONFIDENCE AND CRITICAL THINKING.

RESPECT FOR NATURAL DEVELOPMENT

MONTESSORI METHODS ACKNOWLEDGE SENSITIVE PERIODS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT WHEN CERTAIN SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ARE MOST EASILY ACQUIRED. EDUCATORS TAILOR ACTIVITIES TO ALIGN WITH THESE WINDOWS, OPTIMIZING COGNITIVE AND PHYSICAL GROWTH.

MIXED-AGE CLASSROOMS

Montessori classrooms often include children of varying ages, typically spanning three years. This structure encourages peer learning, mentorship, and social development as older children assist younger ones, reinforcing their own understanding.

MONTESSORI TEACHING MATERIALS AND ENVIRONMENT

Montessori learning methods utilize specialized teaching materials designed to support sensory-based, hands-on learning. These materials are integral to creating an environment conducive to active engagement and discovery.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MONTESSORI MATERIALS

Montessori materials are carefully crafted to be self-correcting, aesthetically pleasing, and focused on a single skill or concept at a time. This design simplifies learning and helps children concentrate on mastering one task before progressing.

Types of Montessori Materials

- PRACTICAL LIFE MATERIALS: Tools and activities that develop everyday skills such as pouring, buttoning, and cleaning.
- SENSORIAL MATERIALS: OBJECTS THAT REFINE THE SENSES, INCLUDING COLOR TABLETS, SOUND CYLINDERS, AND
- MATHEMATICS MATERIALS: MANIPULATIVES LIKE NUMBER RODS AND BEAD CHAINS THAT INTRODUCE NUMERICAL CONCEPTS AND OPERATIONS.
- LANGUAGE MATERIALS: ITEMS THAT FACILITATE PHONETIC AWARENESS, VOCABULARY BUILDING, AND WRITING SKILLS.
- Cultural Materials: Resources covering geography, science, art, and history to broaden knowledge and appreciation of the world.

DESIGNING THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

THE ENVIRONMENT IS ARRANGED TO BE ORDERLY AND INVITING, WITH CHILD-SIZED FURNITURE AND SHELVES AT ACCESSIBLE HEIGHTS. MATERIALS ARE DISPLAYED NEATLY, ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE ACTIVITIES INDEPENDENTLY AND RETURN ITEMS TO THEIR PROPER PLACE, FOSTERING RESPONSIBILITY AND TIDINESS.

BENEFITS OF MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS

THE MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS OFFER NUMEROUS ADVANTAGES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT. THESE BENEFITS EXTEND BEYOND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TO SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND COGNITIVE GROWTH.

ENHANCED INDEPENDENCE AND CONFIDENCE

BY ALLOWING CHILDREN TO GUIDE THEIR OWN LEARNING AND MAKE CHOICES, MONTESSORI ENCOURAGES GREATER SELF-RELIANCE AND BUILDS SELF-ESTEEM. CHILDREN LEARN TO TRUST THEIR ABILITIES AND DEVELOP PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS.

IMPROVED CONCENTRATION AND FOCUS

THE MONTESSORI APPROACH NURTURES SUSTAINED ATTENTION BY OFFERING ENGAGING, HANDS-ON TASKS THAT NATURALLY CAPTIVATE INTEREST. THIS LEADS TO DEEPER LEARNING AND BETTER RETENTION OF KNOWLEDGE.

DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SKILLS

MIXED-AGE GROUPINGS AND COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES PROMOTE RESPECT, EMPATHY, AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION. CHILDREN LEARN TO WORK COOPERATIVELY AND APPRECIATE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES.

PREPARATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

MONTESSORI METHODS INSTILL A LOVE OF LEARNING BY MAKING EDUCATION ENJOYABLE AND RELEVANT. THIS FOUNDATION SUPPORTS ADAPTABILITY AND CURIOSITY, ESSENTIAL TRAITS FOR SUCCESS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.

COMPARISON WITH TRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES

MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM CONVENTIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS, WHICH OFTEN RELY ON TEACHER-LED INSTRUCTION, STANDARDIZED TESTING, AND RIGID CURRICULA.

LEARNING PACE AND STYLE

Traditional classrooms typically follow a uniform pace, whereas Montessori allows individualized progression. The emphasis on experiential learning contrasts with the lecture-based format common in traditional settings.

ROLE OF THE TEACHER

In Montessori education, the teacher acts as a guide or facilitator, observing and supporting rather than directing all activities. Traditional teachers often assume a more authoritative role, delivering content directly to students.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Montessori avoids conventional grading and instead uses observational assessments to monitor development and mastery. This approach reduces pressure and encourages intrinsic motivation.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

MONTESSORI CLASSROOMS ARE DESIGNED FOR FREEDOM AND EXPLORATION, WHILE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOMS MAY HAVE MORE STRUCTURED SEATING AND LIMITED MOVEMENT, INFLUENCING ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INTERACTION.

IMPLEMENTING MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS AT HOME AND SCHOOL

ADOPTING MONTESSORI LEARNING METHODS REQUIRES THOUGHTFUL PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHILOSOPHY TO EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT.

CREATING A MONTESSORI-INSPIRED ENVIRONMENT

WHETHER AT HOME OR IN SCHOOL, ORGANIZING ACCESSIBLE MATERIALS AND DESIGNATED LEARNING AREAS ENCOURAGES AUTONOMY. INCORPORATING NATURAL ELEMENTS AND MINIMIZING DISTRACTIONS FURTHER ENHANCES FOCUS AND ENGAGEMENT.

ENCOURAGING SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

PARENTS AND EDUCATORS CAN FACILITATE SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITY BY OFFERING CHOICES, OBSERVING INTERESTS, AND PROVIDING GENTLE GUIDANCE WITHOUT OVERT CONTROL. RESPECTING THE CHILD'S DECISIONS FOSTERS CONFIDENCE AND MOTIVATION.

INTEGRATING MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES IN DAILY ROUTINES

PRACTICAL LIFE SKILLS SUCH AS DRESSING, COOKING, AND CLEANING CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO DAILY ACTIVITIES, REINFORCING RESPONSIBILITY AND FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT. CONSISTENT ROUTINES AND RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION SUPPORT EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING.

TRAINING AND RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

Professional development through certified Montessori training programs ensures educators understand and correctly implement the methods. Access to authentic Montessori materials and curricula further supports effective teaching.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MONTESSORI LEARNING METHOD?

THE MONTESSORI LEARNING METHOD IS AN EDUCATIONAL APPROACH DEVELOPED BY DR. MARIA MONTESSORI THAT EMPHASIZES CHILD-LED LEARNING, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, AND COLLABORATIVE PLAY TO FOSTER INDEPENDENCE, CREATIVITY, AND CRITICAL THINKING.

HOW DOES MONTESSORI EDUCATION DIFFER FROM TRADITIONAL EDUCATION?

MONTESSORI EDUCATION FOCUSES ON SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING WITH SPECIALLY DESIGNED MATERIALS AND MIXED-AGE CLASSROOMS, WHEREAS TRADITIONAL EDUCATION TYPICALLY FOLLOWS A TEACHER-LED CURRICULUM WITH AGE-SEGREGATED CLASSES AND STANDARDIZED TESTING.

WHAT ARE THE KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE MONTESSORI METHOD?

KEY PRINCIPLES INCLUDE RESPECT FOR THE CHILD, SENSITIVE PERIODS FOR LEARNING, HANDS-ON LEARNING, MIXED-AGE CLASSROOMS, FREEDOM WITHIN LIMITS, AND FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE AND INTRINSIC MOTIVATION.

AT WHAT AGE CAN CHILDREN START MONTESSORI EDUCATION?

CHILDREN CAN START MONTESSORI EDUCATION AS EARLY AS INFANCY, WITH PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR INFANTS (0-3 YEARS), TODDLERS, PRESCHOOLERS, AND CONTINUING THROUGH ELEMENTARY AND EVEN ADOLESCENT LEVELS.

HOW DOES MONTESSORI SUPPORT SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN?

Montessori methods support special needs children by providing individualized learning plans, sensory-based materials, and a flexible environment that adapts to each child's pace and abilities, promoting inclusion and development.

WHAT ROLE DO TEACHERS PLAY IN MONTESSORI CLASSROOMS?

IN MONTESSORI CLASSROOMS, TEACHERS ACT AS GUIDES OR FACILITATORS WHO OBSERVE EACH CHILD, INTRODUCE APPROPRIATE LEARNING MATERIALS, AND SUPPORT INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION RATHER THAN DIRECT INSTRUCTION.

CAN MONTESSORI METHODS BE APPLIED AT HOME?

YES, PARENTS CAN APPLY MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES AT HOME BY CREATING A PREPARED ENVIRONMENT WITH ACCESSIBLE MATERIALS, ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE, ALLOWING CHOICE, AND FOSTERING HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

ARE MONTESSORI SCHOOLS ACADEMICALLY EFFECTIVE?

RESEARCH INDICATES THAT MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OFTEN PROMOTE STRONG ACADEMIC SKILLS, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING, WITH STUDENTS SHOWING BENEFITS IN CREATIVITY, PROBLEM-SOLVING, AND COLLABORATION COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL SETTINGS.

WHAT MATERIALS ARE COMMONLY USED IN MONTESSORI CLASSROOMS?

COMMON MONTESSORI MATERIALS INCLUDE SENSORIAL TOOLS LIKE THE PINK TOWER, PRACTICAL LIFE ITEMS SUCH AS POURING AND DRESSING FRAMES, LANGUAGE MATERIALS LIKE MOVABLE ALPHABETS, AND MATH MANIPULATIVES DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE HANDS-ON LEARNING AND SELF-CORRECTION.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. THE MONTESSORI METHOD

THIS FOUNDATIONAL BOOK BY MARIA MONTESSORI OUTLINES THE PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE MONTESSORI EDUCATIONAL APPROACH. IT PROVIDES INSIGHTS INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD AND THE ROLE OF THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT IN FOSTERING INDEPENDENT LEARNING. EDUCATORS AND PARENTS ALIKE WILL FIND THIS TEXT ESSENTIAL FOR UNDERSTANDING MONTESSORI'S REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS.

- 2. Montessori from the Start: The Child at Home, from Birth to Age Three
 Written by Paula Polk Lillard and Lynn Lillard Jessen, this book focuses on applying Montessori principles in
 the earliest years of a child's life. It offers practical advice for creating a nurturing environment that
 encourages natural development and exploration. The authors emphasize respect for the child's autonomy and
 guide parents in fostering independence from infancy.
- 3. Teaching Montessori in the Home: The Pre-School Years
 Elizabeth G. Hainstock provides a comprehensive guide for parents and caregivers who want to implement

Montessori methods at home. This book covers a range of activities and materials suitable for preschool-aged children, emphasizing hands-on learning and self-directed activity. It's a practical resource for creating a Montessori-inspired environment outside the classroom.

4. Montessori Today: A Comprehensive Approach to Education from Birth to Adulthood
Paula Polk Lillard offers an updated and detailed overview of Montessori education across all age groups.
The book explores how Montessori principles can be applied beyond early childhood into adolescence and young adulthood. It includes case studies and practical examples that illustrate the transformative impact of Montessori education.

5. THE ABSORBENT MIND

In this classic work, Maria Montessori explores the unique way young children learn from their environment. The book delves into the concept of the "absorbent mind," explaining how children effortlessly take in information during their early years. It's a profound look at child development and the educational strategies that support natural learning.

6. Understanding Montessori: A Guide for Parents

MARIE M. MONTESSORI'S PRINCIPLES ARE DISTILLED INTO ACCESSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR PARENTS NEW TO THE METHOD. THIS GUIDE HELPS PARENTS UNDERSTAND THE KEY ELEMENTS OF MONTESSORI EDUCATION AND HOW TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD'S LEARNING JOURNEY. IT ALSO ADDRESSES COMMON QUESTIONS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE APPROACH.

7. Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius

Angeline Stoll Lillard presents scientific research that supports the effectiveness of Montessori education. The book bridges the gap between Montessori philosophy and modern cognitive science, validating many of Montessori's methods through empirical studies. It's an enlightening read for educators interested in the evidence-based benefits of this approach.

8. THE JOYFUL CHILD: MONTESSORI, GLOBAL WISDOM FOR BIRTH TO THREE

SUSAN STEPHENSON COMBINES MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES WITH GLOBAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRACTICES TO CREATE A HOLISTIC APPROACH FOR THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF LIFE. THE BOOK EMPHASIZES RESPECT, OBSERVATION, AND THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF LEARNING, OFFERING A RICH PERSPECTIVE ON NURTURING YOUNG CHILDREN. IT'S VALUABLE FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS SEEKING A THOUGHTFUL EARLY EDUCATION FRAMEWORK.

9. HOW TO RAISE AN AMAZING CHILD THE MONTESSORI WAY

TIM SELDIN PROVIDES PRACTICAL TIPS AND ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS WHO WANT TO APPLY MONTESSORI TECHNIQUES AT HOME. THE BOOK COVERS DAILY ROUTINES, PLAY, AND DISCIPLINE, ALL FRAMED WITHIN THE MONTESSORI PHILOSOPHY OF FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE AND RESPECT. IT'S A USER-FRIENDLY GUIDE THAT MAKES MONTESSORI ACCESSIBLE AND DOABLE FOR FAMILIES.

Montessori Learning Methods

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montessori learning methods: The Montessori Method Maria Montessori, 2004 An essential resource for all students and scholars of early childhood education, this book offers a rich array of material about Maria Montessori and the Montessori Method. Distinguished education scholar Gerald Gutek begins with an in-depth biography of Montessori, exploring how a determined young woman overcame the obstacles that blocked her educational and career opportunities in Italy during the late Victorian age. The author then analyzes the sources and influences that shaped the

Montessori philosophy of education. After laying the foundation for Montessori's development, Gutek presents an annotated and abridged edition of The Montessori Method (1912), the seminal work that introduced her educational innovations to a U.S. audience. The book concludes with key historical documents, including disciple Anne E. George's notes on the Montessori lectures and William H. Kilpatrick's critique of the Montessori method. Preserving the historical context of Montessori's contribution, Gutek also shows the continuing relevance of her thought to educational reform in the twenty-first century.

montessori learning methods: The Montessori Method - Scientific Pedagogy as Applied to Child Education Maria Montessori, 2016-08-18 In the period that has elapsed between the publication of the Italian and American editions, I have had, with my pupils, the opportunity to simplify and render more exact certain practical details of the method, and to gather additional observations concerning discipline. The results attest the vitality of the method and the necessity for an [Pg viii]extended scientific collaboration in the near future, and are embodied in two new chapters written for the American edition. I know that my method has been widely spoken of in America, thanks to Mr. S. S. McClure, who has presented it through the pages of his well-known magazine. Indeed, many Americans have already come to Rome for the purpose of observing personally the practical application of the method in my little schools. If, encouraged by this movement, I may express a hope for the future, it is that my work in Rome shall become the centre of an efficient and helpful collaboration. To the Harvard professors who have made my work known in America and to McClure's Magazine, a mere acknowledgment of what I owe them is a barren response; but it is my hope that the method itself, in its effect upon the children of America, may prove an adequate expression of my gratitude. Maria Montessori.

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montessori learning methods: Understanding Montessori Dana Schmidt, 2009-04 In Understanding Montessori: A Guide for Parents Maren Schmidt explains the how's and why's of Montessori education while asserting that authentic Montessori education is the most effective way for children to learn. What is Montessori Education? Montessori education, more than anything, is about understanding and aiding the child's natural process of growth and learning. The principles, methods, and materials that Dr. Montessori pioneered over one-hundred years ago are not only scientifically supported and researched, they are based on common sense. Understanding Montessori: A Guide for Parents will help parents understand the stages of childhood growth and learning and how Montessori education uniquely meets each child's learning needs. Understanding Montessori draws on the author's twenty-five years of working with children to explain in simple language what neuropsychologists are now finding that--children learn faster and more easily in a properly prepared Montessori classroom than in traditional settings. Montessori classrooms all over the world have proven that, when implemented faithfully, Dr. Maria Montessori's philosophy works for children at all levels of ability and socio-economic circumstance. Montessori education offers an unmatched complement of principles, methods and materials that develop a child's mind like no other educational method. Understanding Montessori busts twelve major myths that prevent clear understanding of what Montessori education is and is not. The underlying principles of Montessori education are explained alongside children's developmental needs and how these two ideas create the foundations of Montessori methods, techniques and learning communities. Two chapters of the book provide in depth questionnaires for finding and assessing a quality Montessori school, along with details for accessing downloadable copies of these questionnaires. Every group has their own set of key words and Montessori educators are no exception. Chapter 10 explains basic childhood development and Montessori terms with clear and easy to understand definitions. Three key ways to assure your child's success are offered in Chapter 8, followed in the next chapter with ten ways that we as parents benefit from considering a child's point of view. Understanding Montessori promises

to explain the basics of Montessori education so that you can make informed decisions about this powerful learning method when a parent's time is in short supply. Montessori education may be the most important choice you make for your child. Learn more by reading Understanding Montessori: A Guide for Parents.

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The book presents a comprehensive overview, starting with the core concepts of learning disabilities and the evolution of learning theories. Subsequent chapters delve into the principles and practices of the Montessori method and experiential learning, analyzing each through case studies and empirical research. A key argument is that tailoring education to individual learning profiles can transform academic outcomes and enhance self-esteem. By drawing on research, case studies, and insights from neuroscience, it argues that these methods impact brain function and learning processes. This academic yet accessible work offers practical guidelines for creating inclusive classrooms and implementing personalized learning plans. It synthesizes the two approaches, providing educators with concrete strategies and resources, making it valuable for educators, parents, and policymakers seeking effective strategies for supporting students with learning disabilities.

montessori learning methods: *Dr. Montessori's Own Handbook* Maria Montessori, 2012-03-07 One of the truly great books on early childhood development, Maria Montessori's illustrated guide was written nearly a century ago in response to thousands of requests from American parents and teachers. In it, the noted educator provided copious information on how to use familiar, simple, easy-to-obtain classroom materials to make any home an effective learning environment. It was to be a children's house, where youngsters would be their own masters, and free to learn at their own pace. Sound cylinders, sandpaper letters, and numerical rods became features of the typical Montessori classroom. Designed to hone the child's visual, auditory, and tactile perceptions, tools such as these enabled the child to experiment and learn through the powers of observation, recognition, judgment, and classification. An essential teaching aid for parents and educators, this handbook features sections on teaching music, arithmetic and language, and developing sensory and motor skills.

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This book introduced the reader to the materials and techniques Dr. Montessori devised for teaching older children. In seven separate sections she applies her unique materials to the teaching of grammar, reading, arithmetic, geometry, art, music and poetic metrics. Among the materials illustrated are her designs for indicating the intervals of the musical scale, her hollow geometric solids, her bead number cubes built into a tower, and her grammar boxes. The book shows how these materials speak directly to the child's curiosity and lead her or him step by step to self-mastery of the fundamentals of elementary school learning.

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