

Article #2

Brief Answers to Questions Parents Often Ask

What Do Montessori Schools Mean by the Term “Normalization?”

“Normalization” is a Montessori term that describes the process that takes place in Montessori classrooms around the world, in which young children, who typically have a short attention span, learn to focus their intelligence, concentrate their energies for long periods of time, and take tremendous satisfaction from their work.

In his book, *Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work*, E.M. Standing described the following characteristics of normalization in the child between the age of three and six:

A love of order

A love of work

Profound spontaneous concentration

Attachment to reality

Love of silence and of working alone

Sublimation of the possessive instinct

Obedience

Independence and initiative

Spontaneous self-discipline

Joy; and

The power to act from real choice and not just from idle curiosity.