

# MONTESSORI PLANES OF DEVELOPMENT

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## EARLY CHILDHOOD: AGES 0-6



Marked by a strong desire for physical independence  
Absorbent mind – sponge-like capacity to learn new skills and gain understanding

## CHILDHOOD: AGES 6-12



Marked by a strong desire for intellectual independence  
Development of conscience, search for moral order, understanding of right and wrong

## ADOLESCENCE: AGES 12-18



Marked by a strong desire for emotional independence  
Sensitive period focused on critical thinking and exploration of moral and social values

## MATURITY: AGES 18-24



Marked by a strong desire for financial independence  
Search for and discovery of one's place in the world, development of spiritual self