

# OBSERVATIONS

From other sources of observations springs our “aid to life.” We cannot really aid children unless we cultivate our powers of accurate objective observations; it is through our observations that we determine the needs of children and consequently aid those needs.

The whole of Montessori’s work is based on her anthropological observations – observations of man, the child, the infant. If we are to continue to discover what Montessori discovered we must continually reflect on and cultivate our power of acute observation.

Montessori wrote in The Advanced Montessori Method. Vol. 1: “It is obvious that the possession of senses and knowledge is not sufficient to enable a person to observe. It is a habit, which must be developed by practice. Such preparation should generate in our consciousness the conception of life which is capable of transforming us, of calling forth a special activity and an attitude which will make us efficient for our task.”

## Uses of Observations

Subjective: What is impression of what happened during the time you observed?

Objective: What did you actually observe? What are the objective behaviors that anyone could observe? What behaviors did you observe that led to your subjective impression?

Assessment: Based on what you observed and your impressions, what conclusions did you reach? Are further assessments needed?

Planning: Given what you know, what would be an appropriate plan for the student or patient? What should be done? What would be helpful?