

# Contents

PREFACE	vii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xiv
1. HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION TO MONTESSORI	1
<i>Montessori's Early Professional Life</i>	
<i>The Casa dei Bambini</i>	
<i>Other Montessori Schools</i>	
<i>First Introduction in the United States</i>	
<i>An American Revival</i>	
2. THE MONTESSORI PHILOSOPHY	29
<i>Childhood as an Entity in Itself</i>	
<i>The Child's Inborn Powers</i>	
<i>The Role of Environment and Freedom</i>	
<i>The Psychic Unity of Mind and Body</i>	
<i>The Intrinsic Motivation of the Child</i>	
<i>The Sensitive Periods</i>	
<i>The Absorbent Mind</i>	
<i>A New Goal for Education</i>	
<i>The Natural Laws of Development</i>	

3. THE MONTESSORI METHOD	50
<i>The Prepared Environment</i>	
<i>Principles of the Montessori Materials</i>	
<i>The Fundamental Lesson</i>	
<i>The Development of Activity</i>	
<i>Categories of Materials</i>	
<i>The Development of Community Life</i>	
<i>The Montessori Teacher</i>	
<i>The Montessori Classroom</i>	
4. MONTESSORI AND PARENTS	104
<i>The Parent's Mission in Society</i>	
<i>The Parent and the Child</i>	
<i>The Home Environment</i>	
<i>The Growing Conflict</i>	
<i>The Child's Instinct for Work</i>	
<i>The Establishment of Freedom</i>	
5. THE MONTESSORI APPROACH APPLIED TO WRITING AND READING	120
<i>The Indirect Approach</i>	
<i>The Daily Living and Sensorial Exercises</i>	
<i>Language Development</i>	
<i>Motor Development</i>	
<i>The Sound Game</i>	
<i>The Sandpaper Letters</i>	
<i>The Movable Alphabet</i>	
<i>The Metal Insets</i>	
<i>Vocabulary Enrichment</i>	
<i>The Transition to Writing</i>	
<i>The Transition to Synthesization</i>	
<i>The Phonetic Object Game</i>	
<i>Phonograms and "Puzzle Words"</i>	
<i>The Function of Words</i>	
<i>Sentence Analysis</i>	
<i>The Child's Expansion into Composition and     Advanced Reading</i>	

6. WHY MONTESSORI TODAY	138
<i>Development of Human Potential</i>	
<i>Approach to Work</i>	
<i>Relationship to Nature</i>	
<i>Family Life</i>	
<i>The Interdependence of Child and Adult</i>	
<i>The Inner City Child</i>	
<i>Practical Problems of Montessori</i>	
<i>A Revolution in Education</i>	
 APPENDIX: Research Results	155
 NOTES	160
 BIBLIOGRAPHY	168
 INDEX	171

*A section of photographs  
begins on page 91*