

# Learning together in the company of children



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**FATHER OF 4, 'BILLY' TO 10, HUSBAND OF 1**

# Bring a child to mind



**for the sake of this keynote, keep that child in mind**

# JAKE! (not his real name)



Something about this kid:

- AGE: Just over 31 months old, 2½ yr old toddler
- RELATION/CONNECTION: Grandson
- STRIKING FEATURE: LANGUAGE! along with phenomenal focus and concentration, ceaseless energy, tenderest compassion

<https://photos.google.com/photo/AF1QipN0uwymXPtR68JgW4QQEj2hXihzazIxshEQQby1>

# Bring a child to mind



**Tell a neighbor about the child you have in mind.**

- **Share a name (pseudonyms only, please)**
- **Connection to you**
- **A striking feature – why you thought of this child**



# Montessori quotes



“We permit the child to *select* the position which he finds most comfortable. He can *make himself comfortable* as well as seat himself in his own place. And this freedom is not only an external sign of liberty, but a means of education. Through such furnishing, the *child has learned to command his movements.*”

*The Montessori Method* (1912/1964)

# Role of the teacher



**“We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit.”**

*Education for a New World (1946)*

# Montessori ideas (and ideals)



- **Highly organized sets of self-help material**
- **Spontaneous activity**
- **Auto-education**
- **Absorbent mind**
- **Planes of development**
- **Prepared environment**
- **Three-period lesson**

# Montessori ideas (and ideals)



Highly organized sets of self-help material





# Montessori ideas (and ideals)



## Spontaneous activity



# Montessori ideas (and ideals)



## **Auto-education**

# Montessori ideas (and ideals)



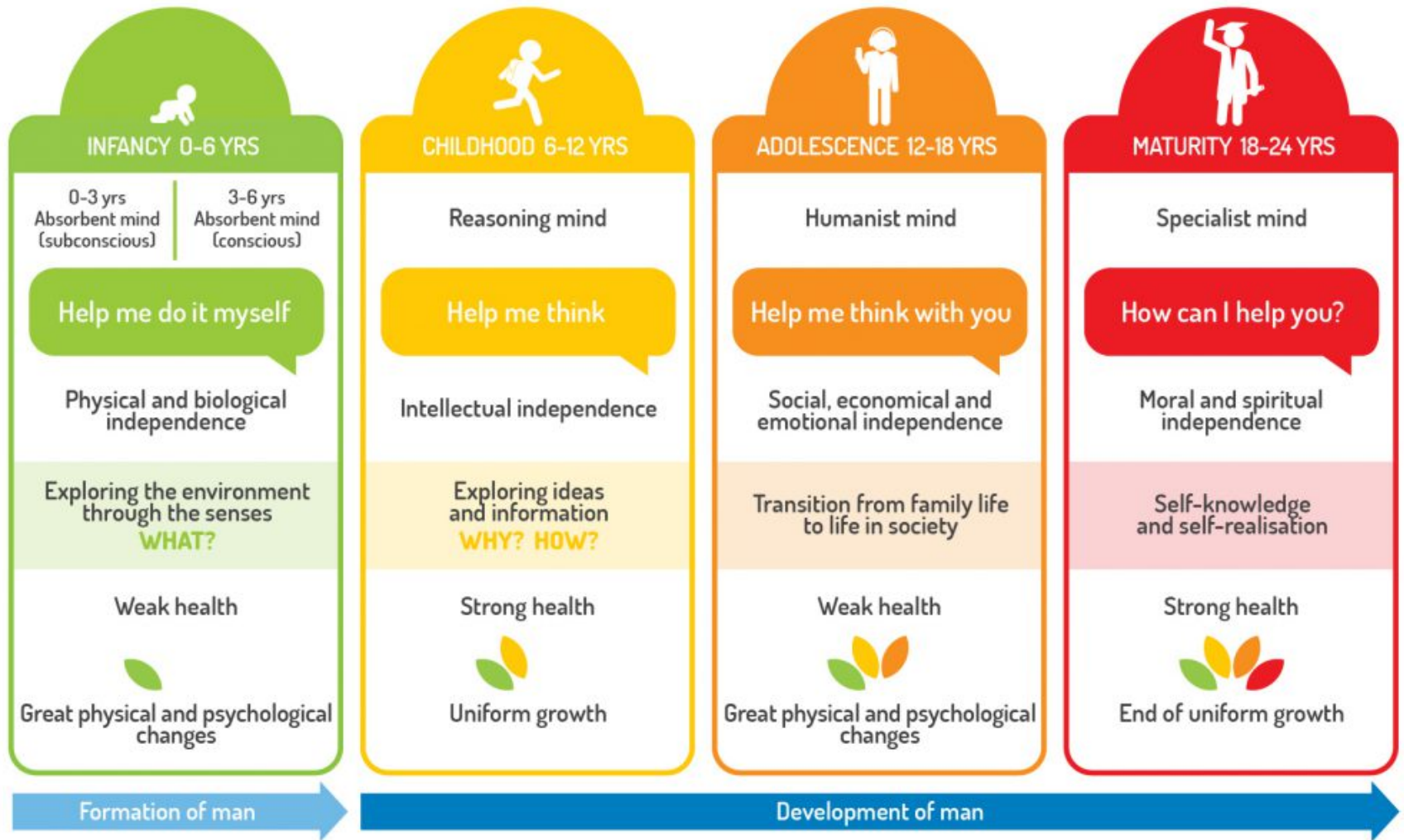
**Absorbent mind**

# Montessori ideas (and ideals)



## Planes of development

# FOUR PLANES OF DEVELOPMENT



# Montessori ideas (and ideals)



## Prepared environment

“Now the adult himself is part of the child's environment; the adult must adjust himself to the child's needs if he is not to be a hindrance to him and if he is not to substitute himself for the child in the activities essential to growth and development.”

*The Secret of Childhood* (1936)

# Montessori ideas (and ideals)

## Three-period lesson



# Montessori ideas (and ideals)





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**"SHE MUST ACQUIRE A MORAL ALERTNESS WHICH HAS NOT HITHERTO BEEN DEMANDED BY ANY OTHER SYSTEM, AND THIS IS REVEALED IN HER TRANQUILITY, PATIENCE, CHARITY, AND HUMILITY. NOT WORDS, BUT VIRTUES, ARE HER MAIN QUALIFICATIONS."**

***THE DISCOVERY OF THE CHILD (1909)***

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