

### **Normalization**

According to Dr. Montessori, children that are free to make constructive choices develop positive personality characteristics. When a child is "normalized" he in turn makes good choices. Good choices in terms of work habits, concentration, grace and courtesy, care for their environment and more. A "normalized" child will independently choose their work and be able to concentrate on their work for long periods of time.

A Montessori teacher merely needs to set the child's developmental energy free. One must understand what "freedom" means. It is a guided freedom, freedom within limits. Educational freedom, in a Montessori environment, means that the child is able to pursue their creative energy, which is the urge of life toward the development of the individual. Children will naturally use their energy toward learning if they are allowed the freedom to follow their curiosities.

The child's ability and desire to concentrate and learn is strongly related to "normalization." The child must be allowed the freedom to develop their natural curiosities to become truly "normalized." Over leading, directing or intervening by the teacher will hinder the child and thus the normalized classroom may never be achieved.