

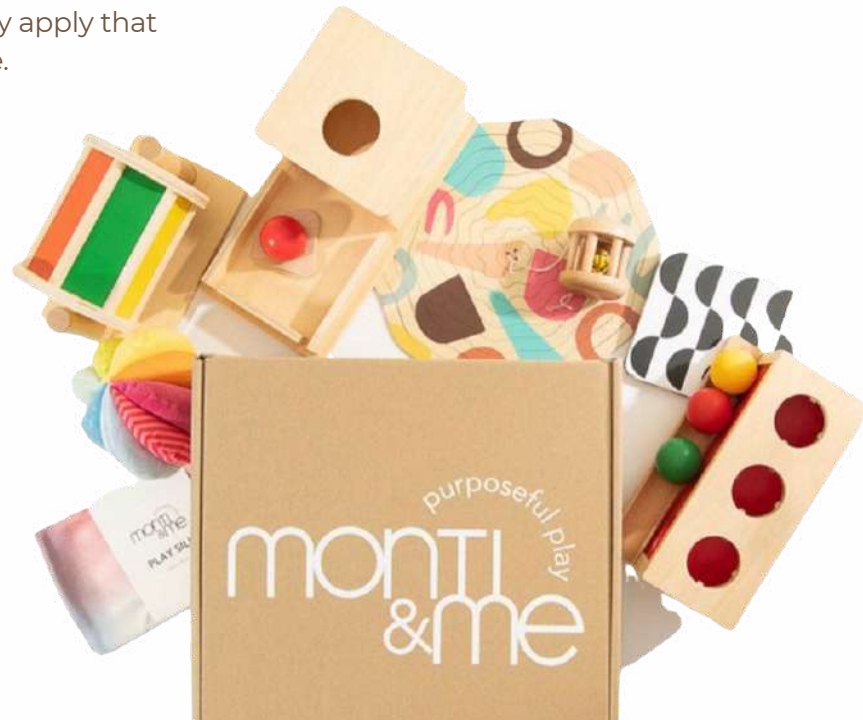
## Baby's first teacher

In Dr. Maria Montessori words, 'education is acquired not by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.'

To us, the parent's role as baby's first teacher means to act as a guide so your child can learn for himself through exploration.

We can facilitate experiential learning by choosing what we put in the environment, observing our child's development and introducing things that meet their developmental needs.

Experiential learning also helps your child better understand concepts, better retain information and later to successfully apply that knowledge.



## Why Montessori?

**The Montessori Method strengthens certain brain functions that help *expand cognitive development*. I've nicknamed it "the original system of learning based on the brain."**

– Steve Hughes, neuropsychologist,  
pediatrician, and Montessori father



From months 9-10: Learning about object permanence

## Explore the Drop Box to learn about object permanence

### Why:

Your baby is still learning how the world works including that objects still exist when they are out of sight.

This concept is called object permanence.

Here, the ball is pushed through the hole in the Drop Box, disappears then rolls out into the tray.

Surprise, it can now be retrieved! This develops gross motor strength by reaching across while sitting to post the ball.

Posting sends information to the brain and develops hand, wrist and finger control. Intentionally grasping, posting and releasing is also a fun lesson in cause and effect.

### Ideas For Play:

- Show your baby how the box works by holding the ball above the box then posting it through the hole
- If the ball misses the hole (which it will many times!) resist getting the ball immediately—you are helping by not helping!

- If your baby doesn't seem interested at first, try again later— babies learn to love the box at different times

