

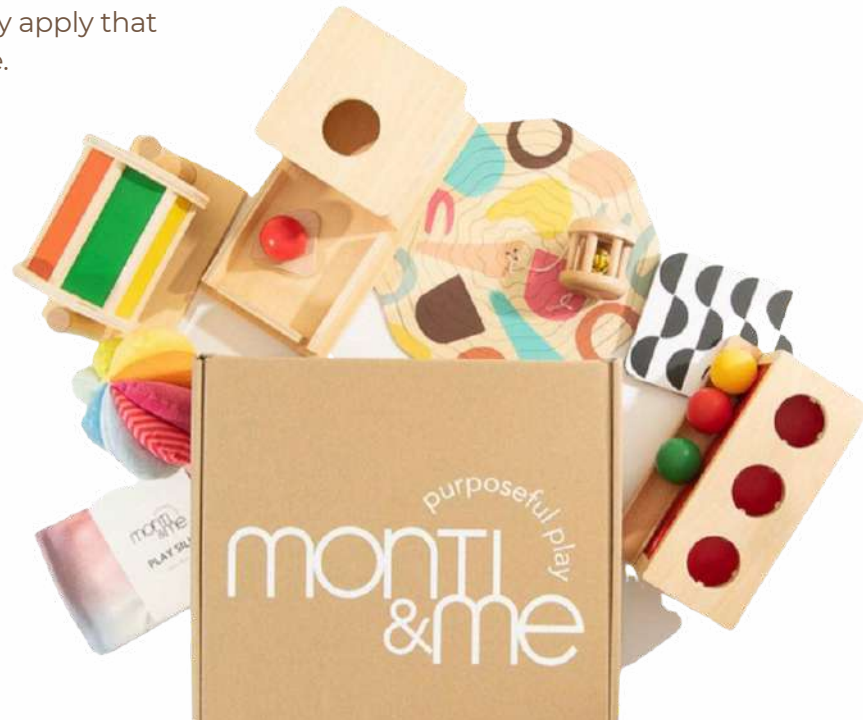
## Baby's first teacher

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 month 11: Strengthening fine motor skills**

## The Push Balls strengthens fine motor skills and builds on the understanding of object permanence

### Why:

Bae is working on fine motor strength and hand-eye coordination when they push the balls through the holes.

Babies love pushing the coloured balls and watching them disappear and (surprise!) pop out down below. The balls disappear, then reappear, building on the concept of object permanence.

This toy also helps her understand cause and effect as she practices posting. It's fun to watch as your baby explores which other toys fit (or don't fit!) in the holes.

### Ideas For Play:

- If your child doesn't explore the material on their own, you can push down a ball—modelling how it works and piquing her interest

Narrate and ask questions:

- 'Which coloured ball will you push down first?'
- 'I see you have the yellow ball, can you place it in my hand?'
- Use tone of voice as encouragement: 'You did it!'

Foster wonder and curiosity by asking questions like:

- 'I wonder what else will fit inside these holes.'
- Does your soft ball fit inside the hole?'

## Fun Fact

**Toddlers enjoy coming back to this keep it in your toy rotation through to age 3**