

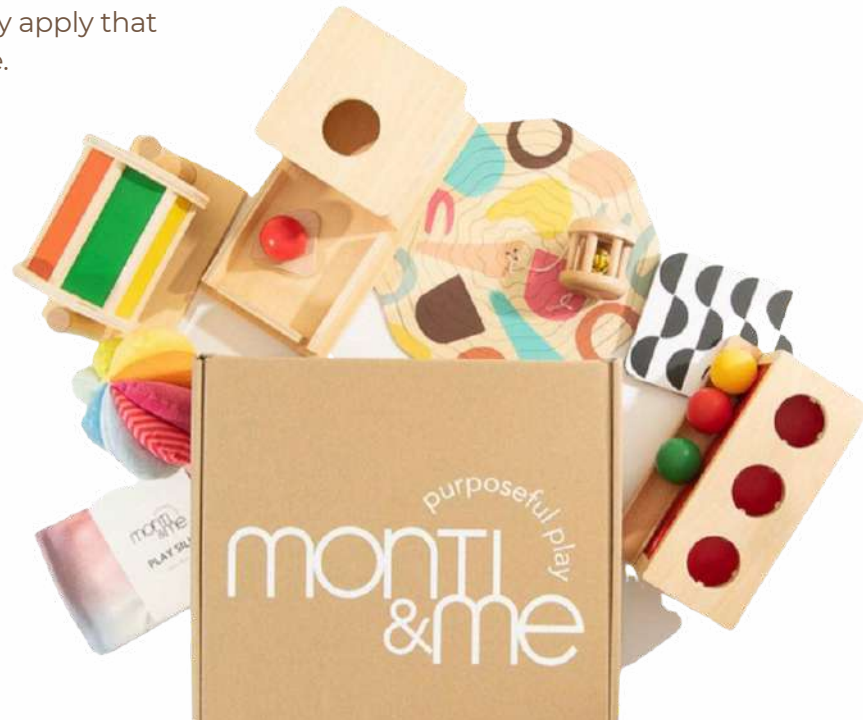
Baby's first teacher

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 4: Using my mouth to learn

Babies actually learn by putting things in their mouth

Why:

The 'mouthing phase' usually begins around month 4 and lasts for the entire first year.

During this time babies take in more information through their mouths than they do through their fingers - predominantly because nerves are more developed in their mouth than any other part of the body.

Recent studies show that mouthing can reduce dribbling (by working mouth muscles), helps with speech development, and prepares bub for learning to eat.

Ideas For Play:

- Present toys so they can look for up to 10 seconds before they feel them (to support multi-sensory learning)
- Tie to a ribbon or elastic and hang from a play gym (to use as a grasping mobile!)
- Other safe textures for your baby to explore include infant cutlery, wooden books, sensory balls and ribbons.

Safety watch out:
Adult supervision is always required.