

Infant Toddler Track

This is a PDF of a Power Point used by Terri Sherill at the 2013 IMC conference.

Terri Sherrill



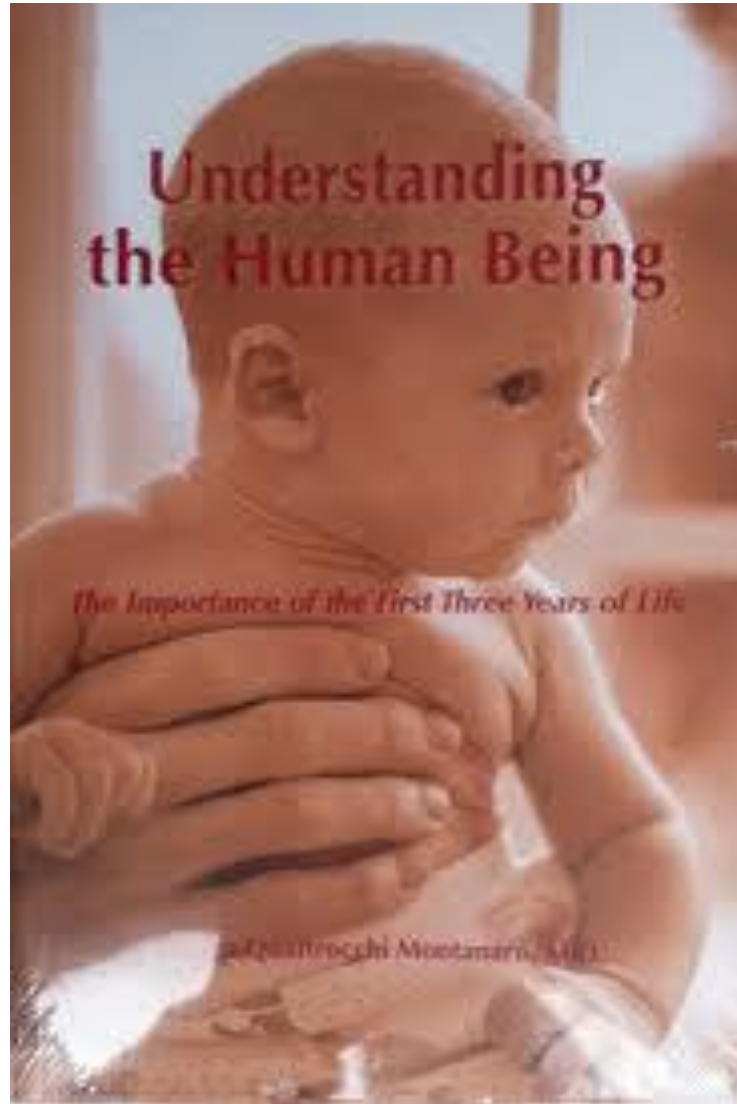
YOU HAVE NOW
CROSSED
OVER INTO...

THE
TWILIGHT
ZONE









BROAD OVERVIEW OF THE NEEDS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS The Genius of Natural Childhood

1. What does it feel like to be a baby? (the world from the child's point of view)
2. What are the physiological processes of development? (a biological point of view)
3. What is "natural" anyway (from an anthropological and *evolutionary* point of view)?
4. How might modern society be violating the child's *evolved* (natural) expectations of care ?
5. How we can use this information to create responsive environments that are an "aid to life" unfolding



**Maria Montessori –Mother of Cognitive Science
(the study of moving from a novice to an expert)**

$$1 + 1 = 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} S &= -k_B \langle \ln P \rangle \\ &= -k_B \sum_{x_i} P(x_1, x_2, \dots) \ln P(x_1, x_2, \dots) \\ &= k_B (\beta \langle H \rangle + \log Z(\beta)) \end{aligned}$$

Set A



Set B



Set C



Set D



Set A



Set B



Set C



Set D



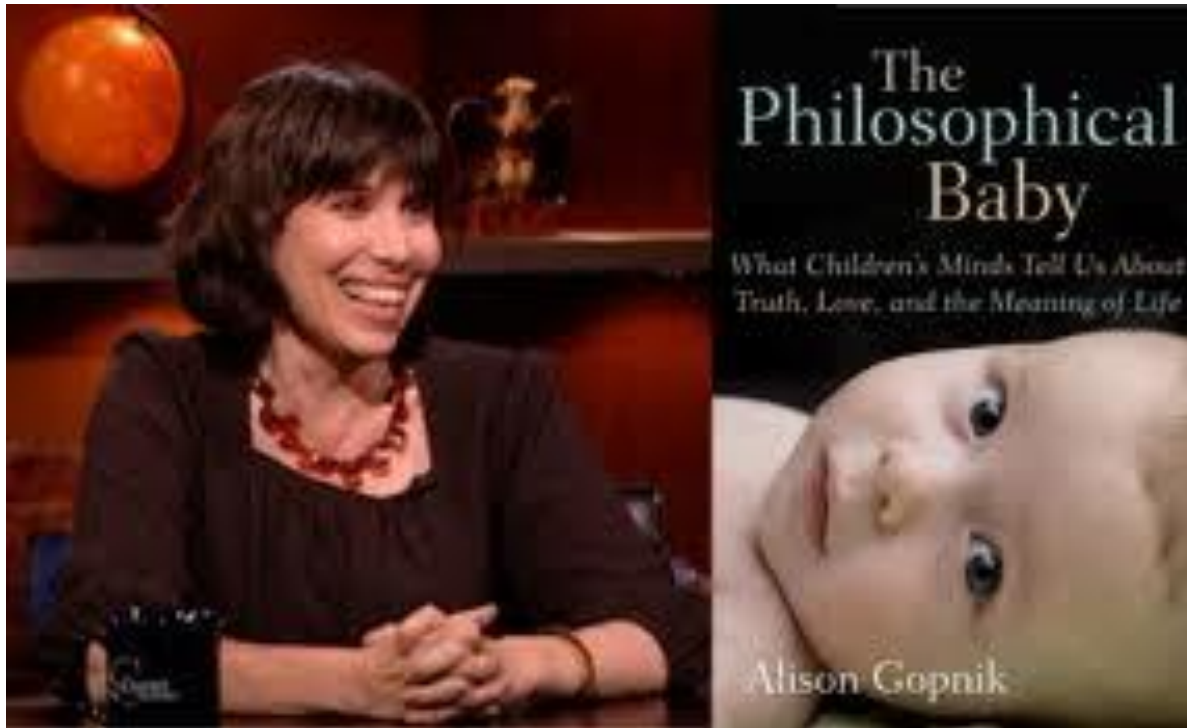


Brain Researcher, Jill Bolte Taylor studied her own stroke as it happened and has become a powerful voice for brain recovery. Her inspirational story & message is about the wonder of being human.



If the human personality is one at all stages of its development, we must conceive of a principle of education which has regard for all stages.





“We used to think that babies and young children were irrational, egocentric, and amoral. Their thinking and experience were concrete, immediate, and limited. In fact, psychologists and neuroscientists have discovered that babies not only learn more, but imagine more, care more, and experience more than we would have thought possible. In some ways, young children are actually smarter, more imaginative, more caring, and even more conscious than adults are.”

RED

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PINK

ORANGE

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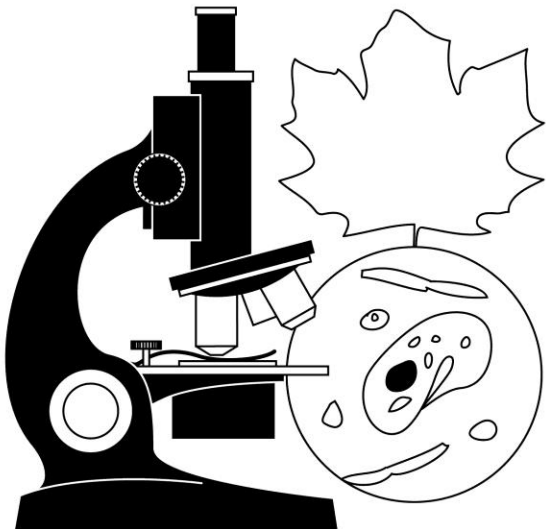
GREEN

BLUE

RED



How many times have children pointed out things that you have overlooked???



Macro and Micro Dimensions

Nutrition



Nutrition builds healthy bodies
(lungs, heart, blood, muscles,
nervous systems....)

Body is made up of CELLS, and
each one of these cells is like a
little machine

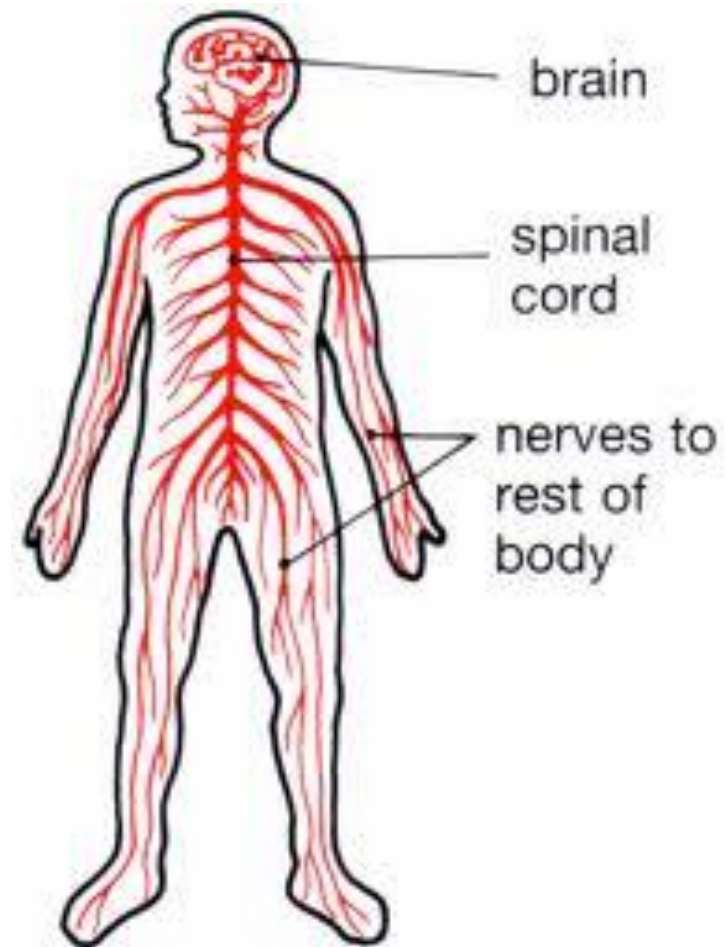
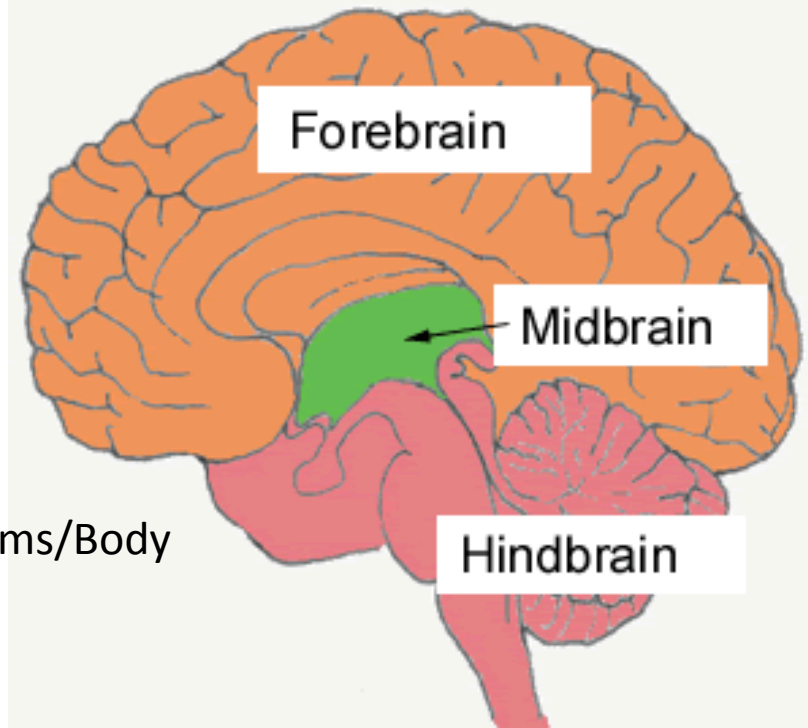
The total length of “wiring”
between neurons is estimated at
62,000 miles

At birth, the number of synapses
per neuron is 2,500, but by age
two or three, it’s about 15,000 per
neuron

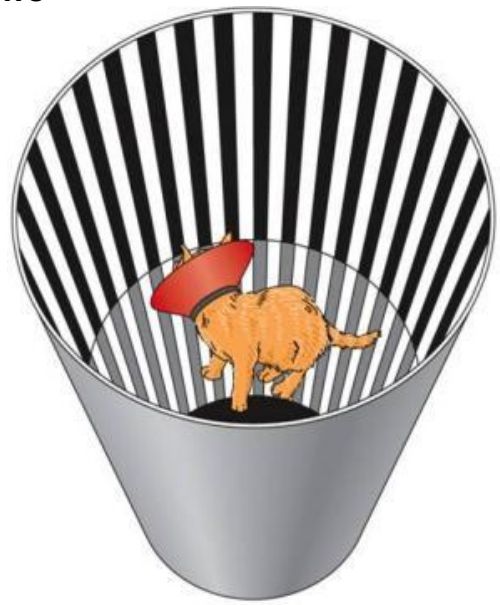
Inner executive

Emotions

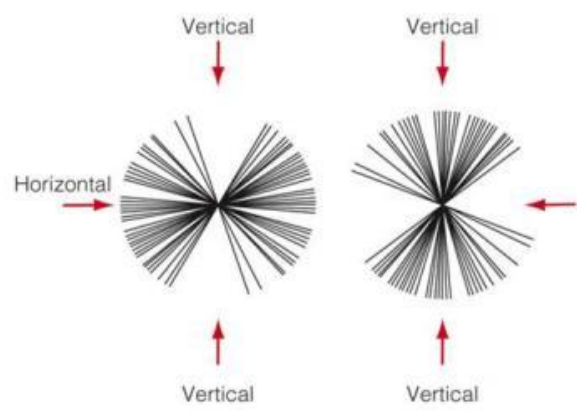
Autonomic systems/Body



PART TWO

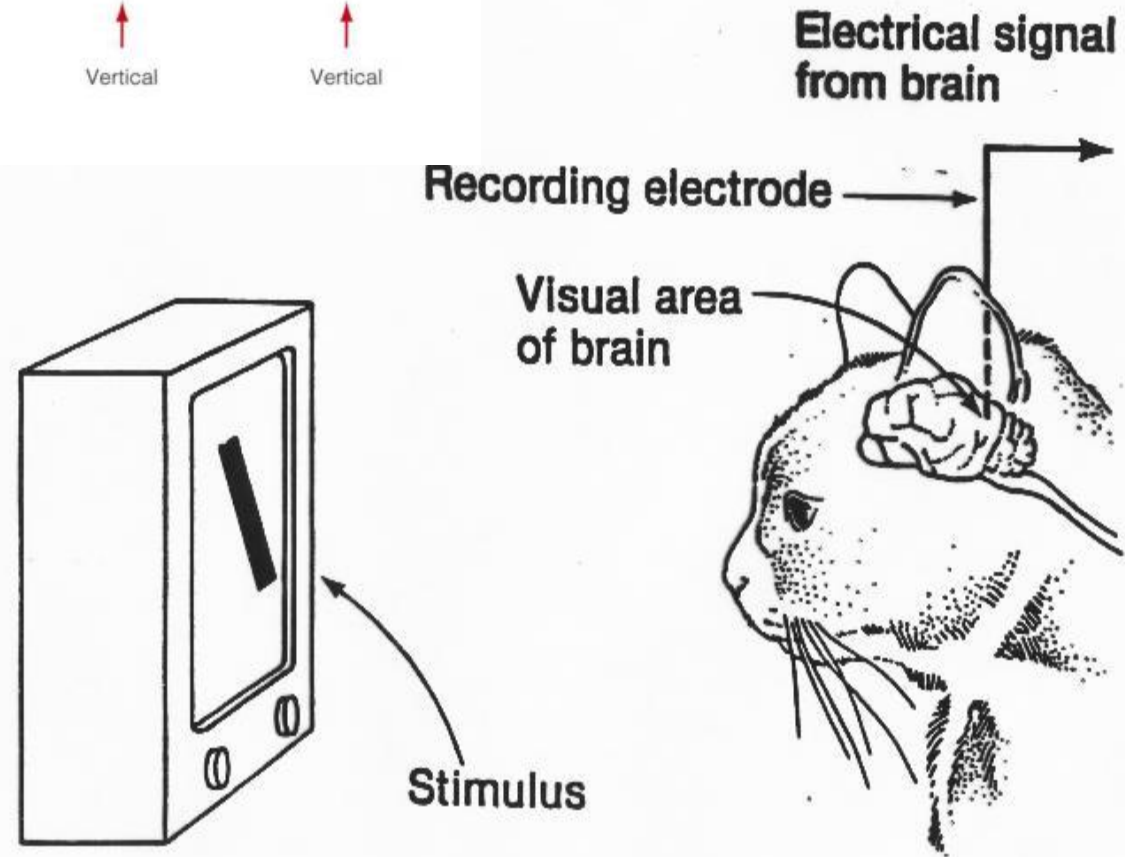


(a)
© 2007 Thomson Higher Education



(b)

Repeated exposure to a stimulus signals certain genes to “switch on.” They give the orders to dedicate more neurons (*more "real estate" of the brain*) to perceiving each part of any given environment --with increased acuity (accuracy).





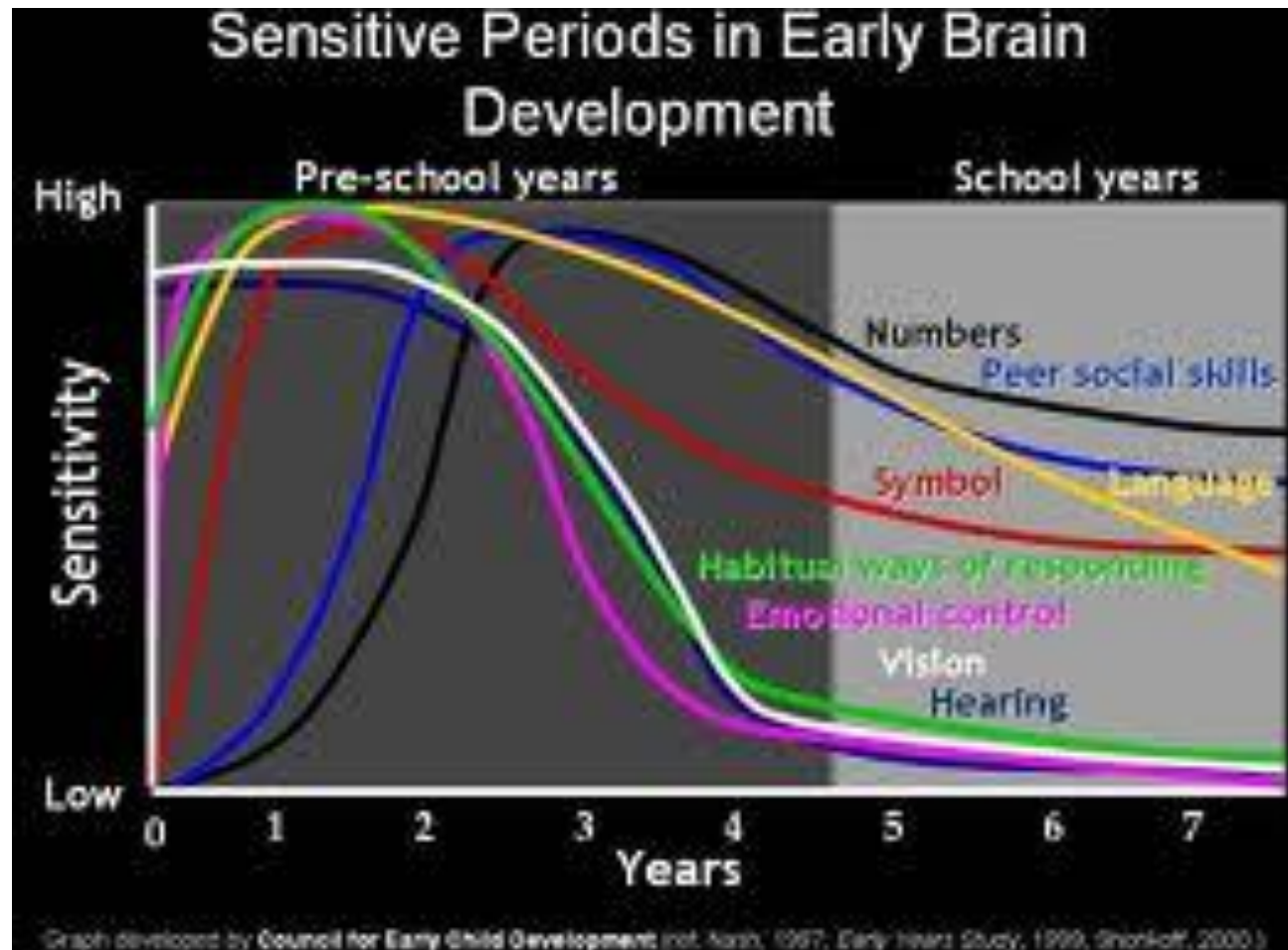
The visual center ...appears before the optic nerves... so that the organ can assume a form corresponding to the services they have to render in the environment.

A child has a different relation to his environment from ours...he incarnates in himself the world about him that his eyes see, and his ears hear.

Impressions do not merely enter the child's mind, they form it.



(1)



None of these sensitivities occupies the whole period of development. Each lasts only long enough for the construction of a psychic organ. Once that organ is formed, the sensitivity disappears, but, while it lasts, there is an outpouring of energy ...

~Dr. Montessori p 51 The Absorbent Mind

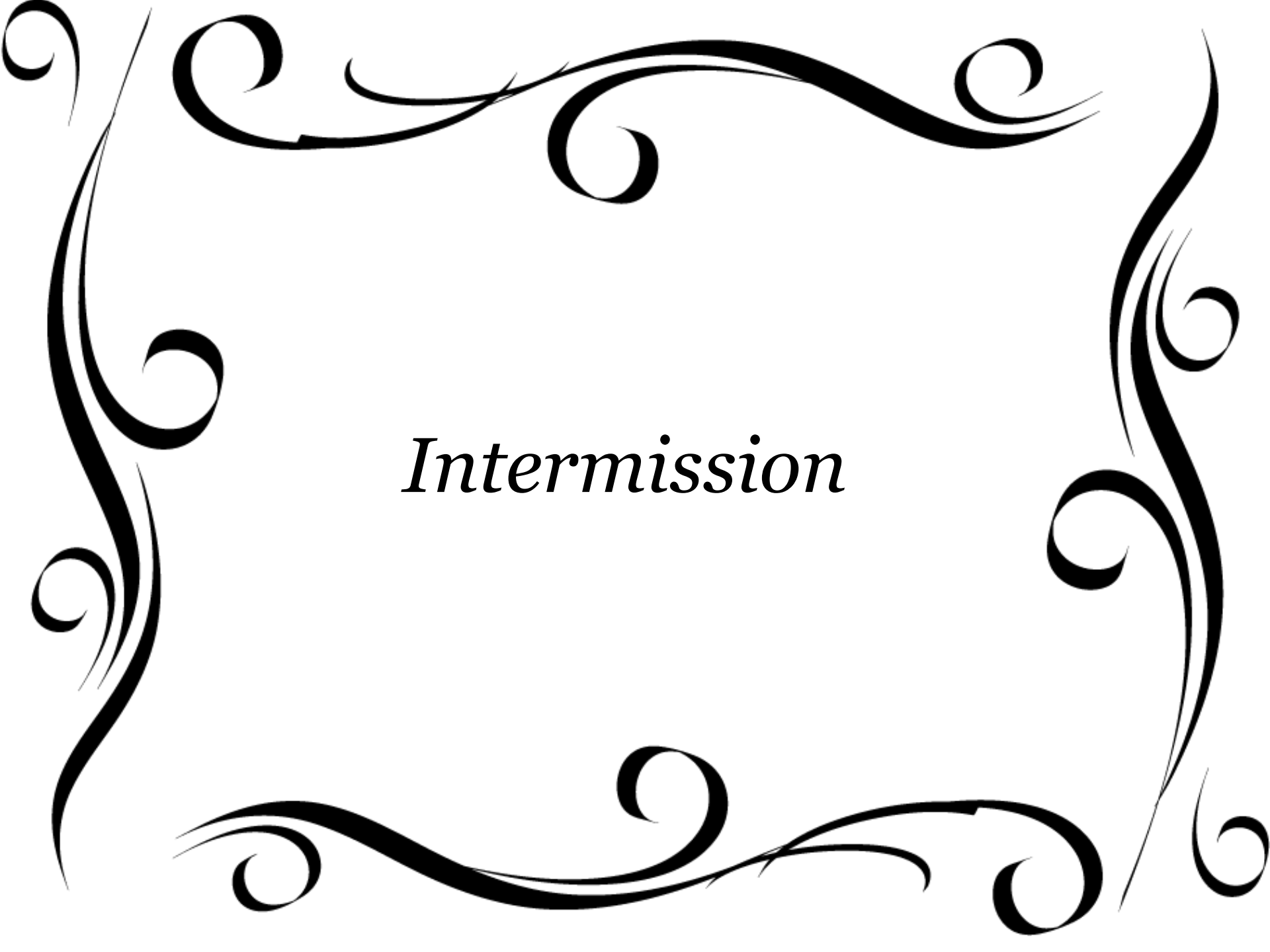
Two Stories from Early Anthropology

Anthropologists realized that there were colors available to people of other cultures ...that they could not see.



A new life for a child left behind.

If the adults move to a new place, they may never completely adapt to their new surroundings –but THEIR CHILDREN?!!! Their children will literally configure their minds (absorb the environment) for success in that new place.

A decorative border composed of elegant, flowing black swirls and curves that frame the central text. The swirls are symmetrical and ornate, typical of classical decorative arts.

Intermission

Dr Montessori: The human species has a double embryonic life.



Then, there is the child's neutrality, his biological indifference to the taking in, and weaving into character, of whatever he finds about him. ~Dr. Montessori





Are We Violating Evolved (natural)
Expected Care and Does It Matter?

The Ancestral Early Caregiving Environment

- **TOUCH:** Held or kept near others constantly
- **RESPONSIVITY:** Prompt responses to fusses and cries
- **BREASTFEEDING:** Frequent (2-3 times/hr initially) 2+ yrs
- **ALLOPARENTS:** Frequently cared for by individuals other than mothers (fathers and grandmothers, in particular)
- **PLAY:** Enjoy multiage play groups in early childhood
- **SOCIAL SUPPORT:** High social embeddedness
- **NATURAL CHILDBIRTH**

Hewlett & Lamb, 2005; Konner, 2005; 2010

ALLOPARENTS

One of the traits that may have forwarded the success of human beings.



Responsive Care

Observation
Symbiotic
Calibration



Communication

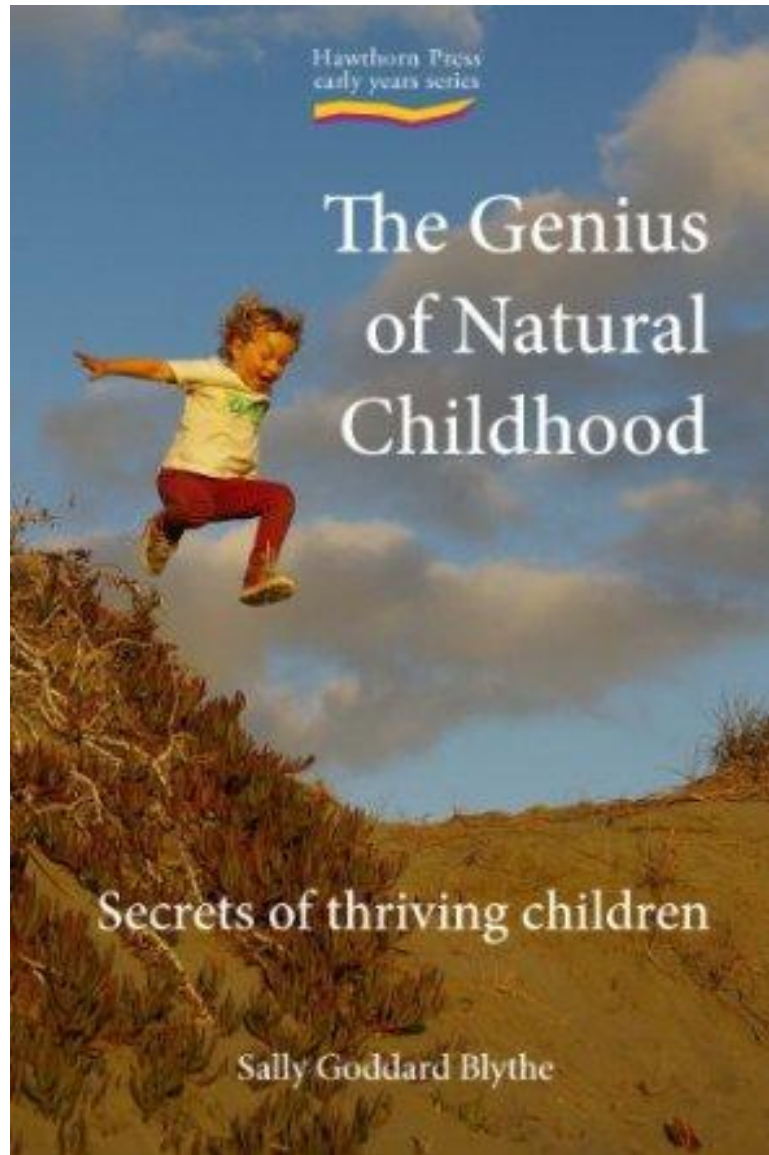
The child's first language is movement.



Early Life Sets the Stage for Social and Moral Development –Responsive Care

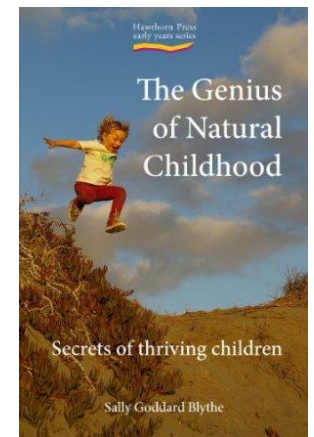
- Mutually responsive orientation (Kochanska) and secure attachment (e.g., Kochanska, 2002; Weinfield et al., 2008)
- Empathy (Zahn-Waxler, Radke-Yarrow, Eisenberg)
- Self-regulation (Weinfield et al., 2008)
- Conscience (Kochanska)
- Openness (Greenspan & Shanker, 2004)
- Agency/self-efficacy/competence (Weinfield et al., 2008)

Responsiveness matters!

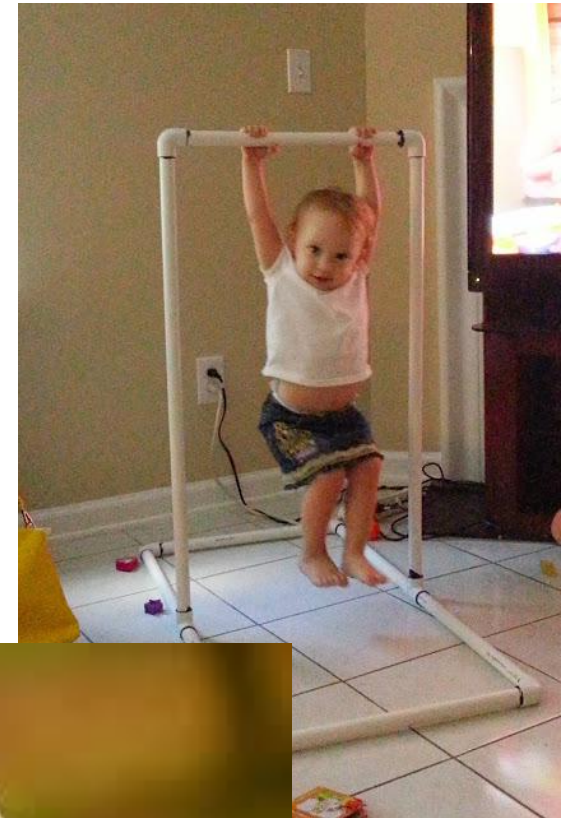


One of the greatest threats to modern society comes not from diseases of the past which Medicine and Hygiene have largely controlled, but illnesses, learning, and social problems which are a direct consequence of modern living conditions, lifestyle, and ignorance of children's biological needs...

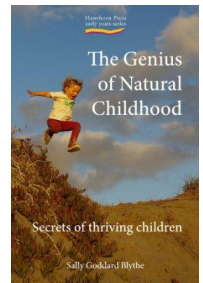
Vestibular Sense



Proprioceptive Sense



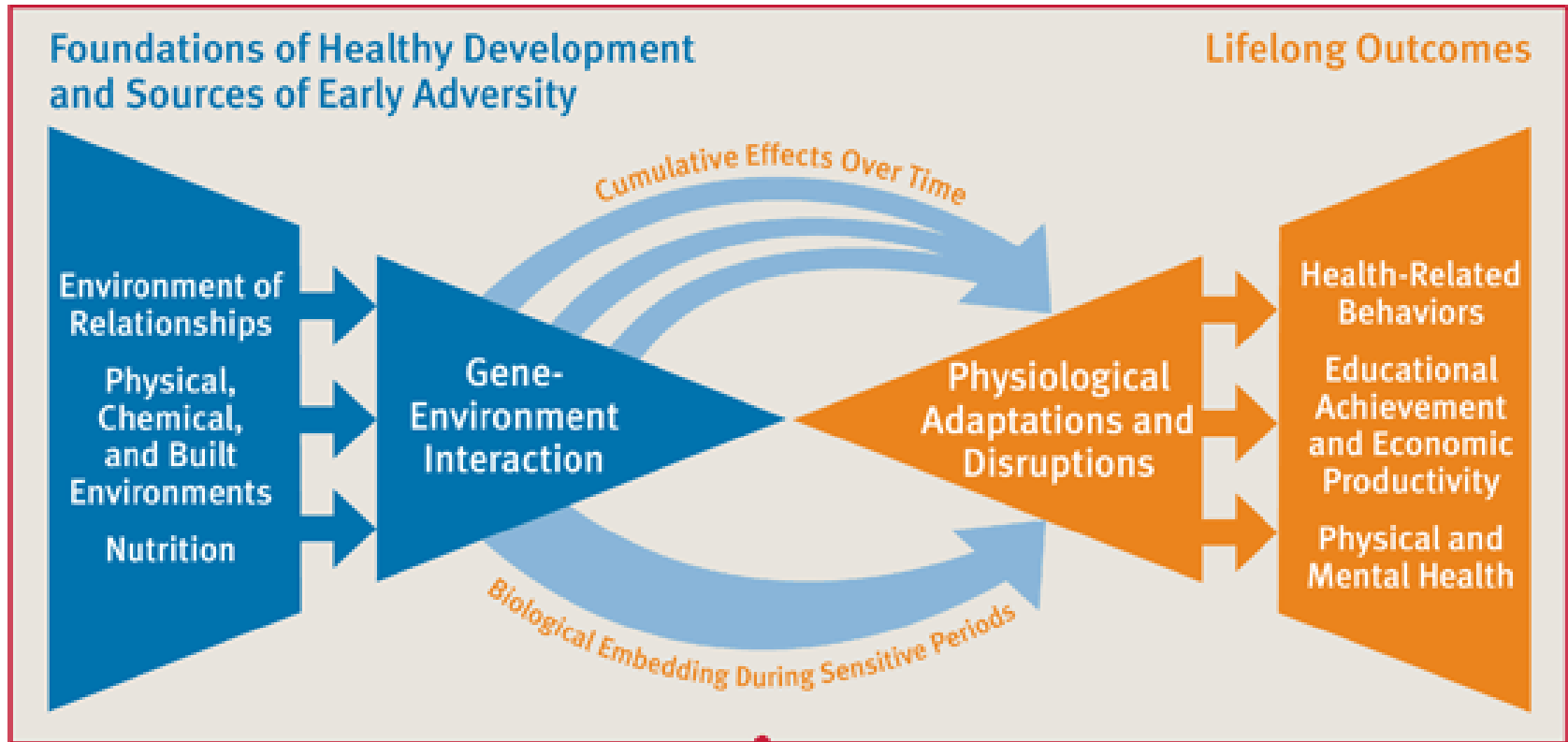
Inhibiting Primitive Reflexes



Since the child has a body as well as a mind, we feel we must include games in his curriculum, so as to avoid neglecting any part of nature's provisions.

All movement thus have a most intricate and delicate machinery.





The Laws of Biology



Its not nice to fool Mother Nature!

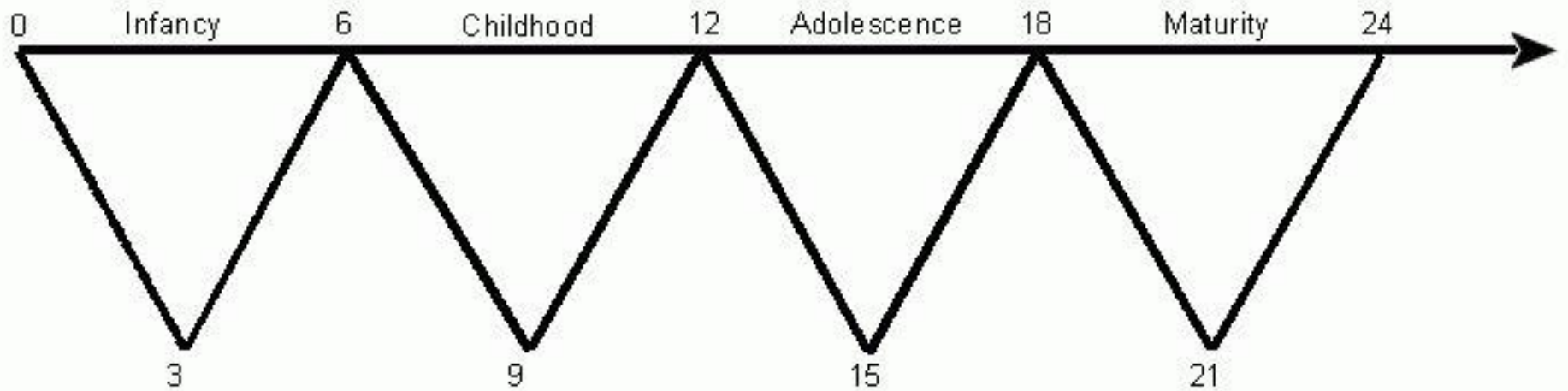
The greatest mistake ever made is to isolate the child from the society of the adult, as has happened in modern times. ~ Maria Montessori



Model the healthy rhythms of daily life



Four Stages of Development



The Importance of Language

The child so enjoys the divine music of the human voice... I imagine a newborn child and I say to him, 'What was your first impression when you came into this world?' and he will answer, 'I thought I was in a world of music.'

~Maria Montessori

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall

All the Kings horses and the King's men

Couldn't put Humpty together again.

*But then a nice child,
with paper and glue,
put Humpty together*

...better than new~



*Peas porridge hot
Peas porridge cold*

*Peas porridge in the pot
Nine days old.*

*Some like it hot
Some like it cold*

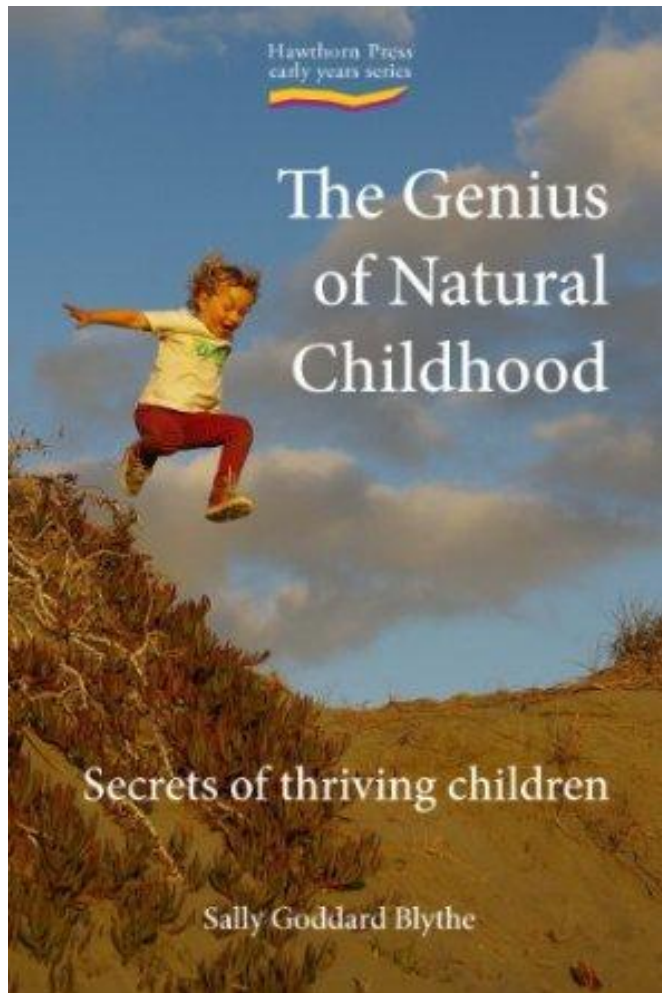
*Some like it in the pot
Nine days old.*





Jack Sprat could eat no fat
His wife could eat no lean;
And so betwixt them both, you see,
They licked the platter clean.

Singing



Temperaments and Peace

Peace is not always calmness ... peace can also be JOY!

Every human personality has its own way of doing things~ MM

Adults often act on an “unwitting assumption of likeness.”

No justice ...no peace

Secret of Childhood: Realization that too often, adults attempt to make children over in their own image

On Children

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

*For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.*

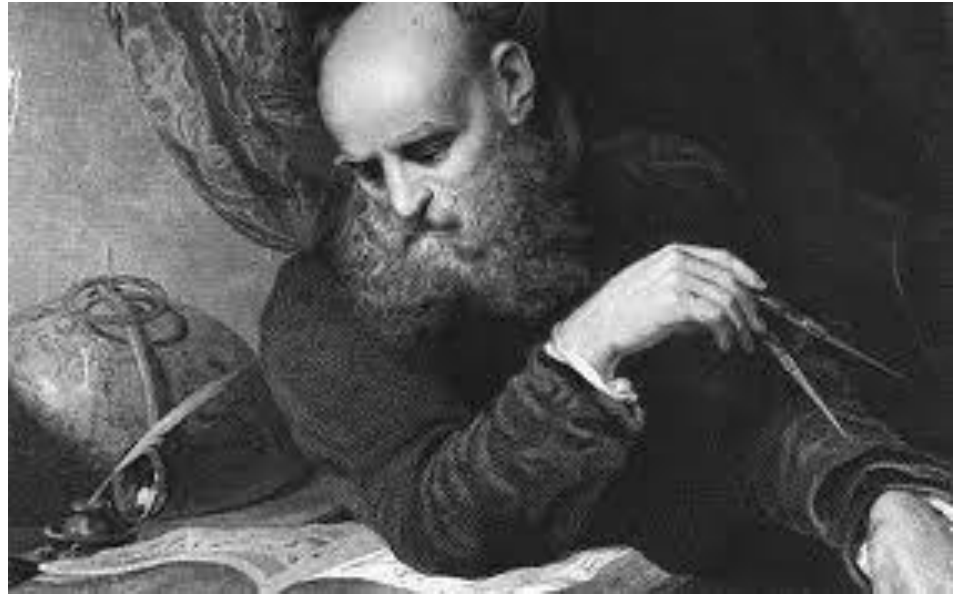
You may strive to be like them,

but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

*You are the bows from which your children
as living arrows are sent forth...*

~Kahlil Gibran



Both realized that the models we were using did not represent reality, and gave us better models.

Using a model that is consistent with reality will help us to lift humanity to its rightful place (more intelligent, creative, compassionate, courageous, collaborative, and mentally healthy) better able to meet the challenges of our time.

We are living in very exciting times



Coming Together.
Creating Community.
It's Only Natural!

Others are ready to hear our voices...



You are doing the most important
work there is to do on this planet



The Genius of Natural Childhood

1. the world from the child's point of view
2. a biological point of view
3. What is "natural" (from an anthropological and evolutionary point of view)?
4. Working to avoid violating evolved (natural) expectations of care ?
5. Using this information to create responsive environments that are an "aid to life" unfolding --leading to a better world



The End

questions