The Montessori Educational Model as a Mediator for Educational Disparities Generally Linked to Low Socio-Economic Status

By Caroline Johnston
The Research

- Students from lower SES backgrounds consistently perform less well than students from higher SES backgrounds.

- Language is highly linked to SES.
  - In a study conducted, children from professional families have generally heard 4 million utterances, while children from welfare families have heard only 250,000 utterances.
Montessori Philosophy: Children Teach Themselves

- Highly Individualized, Student Based Program
- The “Absorbent Mind”
- Developmentally Appropriate
- Focus on Independence, both Academically and Socially
- Inner Motivation
The Interviews & Observations

- **Academic goals**
- **Social Goals** (includes Self-Directed, Self-Controlled, Monitored Behavior, Independent Thinkers, Compassionate)
- Able to accomplish these goals by respecting individual students & creating an atmosphere that encourages independence
“What are the differences you see among your entering 3 year olds?”

- Big Difference in Vocabulary
  - Some students have an extensive vocabulary, while other children barely speak.
  - Montessori Philosophy believes that Language’s sensitive periods occurs at the age of 3

- Addresses this Issue by Going through the Program: Students Learn from Each Other
Connecticut Mastery Test
2002 Results

Percentage of Students Meeting Grade-Level Standards: Grade 4

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<th>State:</th>
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