

class children are afraid of thunder, or cannot fall asleep through fear of darkness, or are shy, because so much happens in the world around them which they do not understand. Foolish parents increase this fear by telling their children about the stinging bee, the biting dog, and explain thunder and lightning as the expression of God's anger. Fairy tales increase the fear of forest and darkness, until the child, not knowing the difference between reality and phantasy sees himself surrounded by all kinds of danger.

Therefore, we should help the child to become acquainted with his environment, and we should create an active contact between him and nature. Hence, we make many excursions with our children, to see a lake, a spring, a river, a farm, craftsmen at work, to speak to a policeman and to be shown around a harbour or railway station. We also observe wind and weather and the position of the sun.

This article has deliberately been restricted to a description of the direct work with the children. The contact with the parents, the keeping of records of each child, the cooperation with the different schools, public health- and youth departments, the practical demonstration to so many visitors, interested in the Montessori method in connection with our special branch of education, all this belongs to our work in the preparatory class too. And that is important, because the reciprocal relationship between the child and the grown-up is a passport to real life.

R. Schorn

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#### MONTESSORI RESEARCH IN AMSTERDAM

As he was not able to write to all of them personally, we have been requested by Drs. M.M. Montessori to thank all the participants of the Study-conference in Strasbourg for their gift, also in the name of the committee responsible for the organization of the research-project (see Communications No. 2, 1961).

We take this occasion to make a further appeal for contributions. By all the help received, it has been possible to finance the project for the year 1962. This has greatly enheartened the organizers. But further help is needed to enable them to continue until the results will be ready for publication. Official subsidy has been promised but it is not known when it will be received, or how much it will be. One thing is sure: **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.** Contributions are to be sent to: Montessori Research, Rembours & Industrie Bank, Herengracht 320, Amsterdam.