

BOOK REVIEW

STARS IN MY SKY

Author: Valerie Harms

Magic Circle Press, New York

Stars in my Sky, a collection of essays about prominent women, who have made a lasting impression on the author, opens with one on Dr. Maria Montessori.

The author came in contact with Montessori education in her search for a suitable institution for her own young child, almost accidentally. She was greatly struck by the difference between a Montessori environment and others she had seen and in one of which her child had been for some time. This aroused her interest and made her study the person and the work of Dr. Montessori. Mrs. Harms certainly recognized some truly basic concepts and features and she was also deeply impressed how up to date these were for our own times and in many respects thought-provoking.

Being herself much interested in a revaluation of women's position in society, Dr. Montessori's pioneering activity in this field long before she had concentrated on child education, struck a very sympathetic cord and explains also why she discovered Dr. Montessori and her work as a 'star in her sky'.

A.M. Joosten

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We enjoyed reading the following suggestions and would like to share them with our readers.

WRAPPING BOXES

Children in the afternoon class will enjoy learning to wrap presents. We presented this at first with paper already cut to fit the box. Later, the children can learn to cut the paper to fit the box. We used newspaper for learning how to wrap (the Sunday funnies make good wrapping paper).

Marnie Glaser

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

We were very pleased with the results of using Sanford Jones' suggestion for a birthday celebration. A candle is placed in the middle of the circle and we tell the children that the candle represents the sun and that a year is the time the earth takes to go around the sun one time. The birthday child holds the coloured globe and the teacher tells the children that she is going to tell the child's history. The teacher reads (from notes supplied by the parents): „Johnnie came into the world on November 1, 1972". The child begins to walk around the circle and the teacher continues: „In his first year