INTRODUCTION

Observation is the main motto of Montessori education. The ability to observe is what guides us around children and supports the developmental needs of the children. It is based on our perceptions and we need to keep the prepared environment ready

As adults in Montessori, we must be good observers, be it at home or school, we need to be both detached and involved at the same time, we need to be conscious of what is happening around us and yet let the children work freely, without obstructing their work.

WHAT IS OBSERVATION?

It is the ability to notice important details; appreciate and know what we notice, looking for differences, details etc. Observing skills uses all four senses to recognize, perceive and analyze. We have to concentrate and be mindful, we have to be present and be aware of our surroundings.

Observation requires individual preparation; we must follow certain rules during observation, otherwise we might not be able to observe clearly. We need to practice this ability.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE PREPARED?

**Prepare all our senses**:

We need to concentrate on how we perceive things and we need to know and understand information that comes to us through our senses. We need to look out and recognize, we must know what we see, what we smell, what we hear and it helps us to be aware/ know of all things around us, Montessori also spoke about sixth sense, and our instinct. If we love our self, we can feel who the children are what they are doing and we also notice things that are right or not right. To be an observer we must be able to recognize and perceive them as we receive them. To use all our senses, not to block out any information. We need to use them to touch things, to manipulate, since we are so dependent on technology nowadays. We have stopped using many of our senses effectively.

**Interest in what we are watching:**

Bird watching and cloud watching are examples and people waiting for hours, together to watch them, they do this only because they are interested, we need to have patience to b a good observer, and we have to be unobtrusive.

We have to take notes and record what we observe, and recordings must be factual.

Interest and patience:

Interest is a taste of some of the things that we do. We can do certain things only if we are interested in doing it, interest also can help the observer to be patient and we have to wait for something to happen. Without patience, we cannot see everything, what may or may not have happened, only if we observe we can find it, if there is interest, there is no boredom, and if there’s no boredom, there is no tiredness. An uninterested person cannot sit for hours together, we become tired. It gives inner power to become and expect everything, practice and exercise is required