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Maria Montessori was one of the most important early years ¹ educators of the 20th century. She was the first woman to ² graduate from the University of Rome medical school and became interested in education through her work as a doctor, treating children with special needs. When she went on to establish schools for the disadvantaged children of working parents in Rome, she approached their education as a scientist. She used the ⁴ class room as her laboratory for observing children and finding ways to help them to achieve their full Potential.

It soon became apparent that Dr Montessori had developed a highly effective teaching method which could be used with great success with each and every child. She began to travel the world, establishing schools, lecturing about her discoveries, and writing articles right up to her death in 1952. She was a true pioneer of ⁷ Child-centred education. Her innovative classroom practices and ideas have had a profound influence on the education of young children all over the world.

Montessori saw that children learn best by doing and that happy self-motivated learners form positive images of themselves as confident, successful people. She created specially designed resources to ¹⁰ foster independence and a love for learning from an early age.

The Montessori approach is holistic, that is, it aims to develop the ¹¹ whole child. Fundamental to this approach is the belief that a child's early life, from birth to six years old, is the period when they have the greatest Capacity to learn.

1.4 Complete these sentences with the correct prepositions. There are similar sentences in 1.2.

- 1 My brother graduated from Harvard University in 2009.
- 2 In some countries, children with special needs are taught in mainstream schools.
- 3 The professor toured the world, lecturing about his educational theories.
- 4 Successful teachers are those who have a good influence on their students.
- 5 Children often learn better by doing things themselves rather than listening passively.
- 6 Students who have a positive image of themselves are usually happy and successful.
- 7 Ever since I started school, I have had a real love for learning.
- 8 Everyone can succeed at something. This idea is fundamental to my beliefs about education.