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Glimpses of the Christ Child

What would it be like to have Jesus in your classroom? What would be your first emotion or thought? Nervous? Thrilled? Excited? Scared? Or a combination of all of them?

What kind of student would He be? You already know – He'd be perfect – a perfect "Montessori" student. Why a Montessori student? Because He was the inspiration and revelation to Dr. Montessori for this wonderful way of learning. She said that God gave her this method. And God's gifts are good and perfect.

What attributes would you see Jesus demonstrate in your environment? He would be a learner anxious to explore with a sense of wonder to discover (rediscover?) the world He made.

He would focus on the works of His hands. The hands that created the universe would certainly touch and caress His creation with care and gentleness.

His voice would be quiet and steady. He would ask questions – just like He did in the temple with the teachers long ago. And He would have profound insights and answers to share.

He would share His knowledge with the other children – helping them to understand, explaining the difficulties and mysteries of learning.

He would care for the environment, keeping and putting everything in order.

You know He would make good choices. (Montessori education, ultimately, is about learning to make wise choices.)

He would complete what He started.

He would have self-control.

He would show a reverence for God and a hunger for spiritual things.

But would HE have curly hair or straight hair? How tall would He be? Would His eyes be brown? How dark would His skin be? And would you even recognize Him – the Christ Child?

Everyday you get glimpses of the Christ Child in your classroom. But His name might not be Jesus or Joshua but Pete or Joe, Mike or Betty or Susan. The spirit of the Christ Child lives in the heart and soul of your children waiting to be glimpsed and celebrated (like Anna or Simeon in the Temple) by a Christ seeker.

Jesus says that the pure in heart will see God. When you look for God you will find Him. When you search for glimpses of the Christ Child in your environment you will find them. You will see them in the eyes and words and attitudes and actions of your children as their lives reflect the Christ Child. Seek and you will find! And everyday will become a Christmas – a celebration of God with us and God within us revealed in the smiles and laughter and wonder and joy of our children.