

## WHAT AM I GOING TO LEARN TODAY?

That is usually the title we give our lesson plans for our children. But the challenge of Montessori is not what the child will learn but what the adult, the guide will learn.

Humility is a key word in Dr. Montessori's vocabulary when she talks about the qualities a guide needs. Traditional education will rarely speak of humility but will focus on preparation, intelligence, planning, knowledge, and execution.

The challenge for educators, both traditional and Montessori, is not to act like you know it all. (Because you don't!) What you "know" may be important, but it may not be the most important thing.

If a teacher of history needs to study history, what should a teacher of children study? (Hint: children.) However, the study of children is not really in the plural – but in the singular – study THE child; study the child in front of you. Learn about the child in front of you. Stop, pause, and ponder the mystery of what it is you are going to learn today from the child –

So, all of your preparation, intelligence, knowledge, planning, and love has a focal point that actually meets the needs of the child and not the needs of your record keeping, curriculum or daily plans.

What will you learn today, in humility, that will advance your understanding and your ability to meet the child's needs? And then understand that you have a whole "filing cabinet" of folders with different names, different data, different needs. So, what have you learned today that changes you? What have you learned today that brings your skills and knowledge into focus that actually serves the child in front of you?

And the happy part (among all the challenges of being a Montessori guide) is what have I learned about joy – both mine and theirs? How have I rejoiced in their simple (yet profound to them) discoveries? Has the discovery of the joy of the journey made my steps light instead of plodding one foot in front of the other? What have I learned about the light of discovery in the children's eyes when wonder explodes?

**What have I learned about being a guide that I didn't know before?**

**What have I learned today?**