
2016 EsF Reading Group Summary

Reading and reflection is an important part of an EsF Assembly. Following is a short summary of a group discussion on the following text.

Karachi Lecture

1 August 2016, Group 5

Poor children may suffer in a material sense, but they are in closer contact with their natural condition than children who have plenty in life. This means that their development has more favourable conditions.

Children who have many possessions cannot focus and concentrate with the ease shown by an impoverished child when he encounters objects in the prepared environment. Less is more, in fact. This holds true in Montessori environments where clutter is an obstacle to the children's developing concentration. This led on to a discussion about what to do when a child wants to do work for which he is not ready: ways of dealing with it were discussed.

Vidya asked everyone about traditional teacher training in their countries. All bore the hallmarks still of what Montessori was criticising in the teachers of her own time.

Discussion on humility – what does it mean for a teacher?

Children who have not experienced an ideal environment in the period before school still bear the scars for a long time. Perhaps forever.

We just have to wait for the child to blossom. The new teacher must prepare the environment and stand back. It is called the method of Non-Intervention. But we have to tread a fine line between non-intervention and abandonment.