

# Walk The Talk

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**Canadian Association of Montessori Teachers**  
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**What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.**

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

### How do we practice these principles we teach?

I challenge you to join the ranks of those who live what they teach, who walk their talk.

I challenge you to make your life a masterpiece of your personal self-construction.

Today I want to share with you five perspectives that have helped me put my principles into practice. Perhaps these ideas can help you too.

- Let Your Life Speak
- Embrace Paradoxes
- Be Kind
- Do It Anyway
- Think Big

### Let Your Life Speak

- Love life with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your body, and with all your soul.
- Pursue a passionate interest. Find the answer to this question: *What's my sentence?*
- Be friendly with error. Ask: *Am I better today than yesterday?*
- Ask everyday: *Am I living the life that LIFE wants me to lead?*

I believe all my experiences have created my life. I love them all.

At the end I hope I can say, "I Let My Life Speak".

### Embrace Paradoxes

Using paradoxical thinking helps me.

Some paradoxes to ponder:

- I'm saving it for good. This is as good as it gets.
- Live today as if it were your last day. Live as though you will live

- forever.
- To be a success, you must seek failure.
  - Everything is important. Ultimately nothing matters.
  - To do something well, you must do it poorly.

What does holding a paradox in your mind have to do with walking our talk?

Embracing paradoxes, holding differing ideas in my mind, has helped me embrace my gifts and my failures...all in the same moment.

When I can embrace paradoxes I also find myself being friendly with error. In myself and in others.

Paradoxical thinking has helped me let my life speak. This is as good as it gets!

Paradoxical thinking has helped me love my life--the good, the bad, the ugly.

## **Be Kind**

The sign in the gift shop read:

***Good judgment comes from experience.  
Experience comes from bad judgment.***

You don't have to be right. Try being kind instead. - Wayne Dyer

I discovered in the big picture of my life, with my relationships with others, it was more important to be kind.

Being kind would get me to "right" faster than anything I'd experienced.

I could effect change faster with kindness than trying to be right.

When I focused on kindness, I found I could make mistakes and learn faster from those mistakes.

When I focused on kindness, I forgave myself.

## **Do It Anyway**

Even when you walk your talk and have integrity in your words and actions, there will be obstacles.

## The Paradoxical Commandments

By Kent M. Keith

*People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.*

**Love them anyway.**

*If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.*

**Do good anyway.**

*If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.*

**Succeed anyway.**

*The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.*

**Do good anyway.**

*Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.*

**Be honest and frank anyway.**

*The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.*

**Think big anyway.**

*People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.*

**Fight for a few underdogs anyway.**

*What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.*

**Build anyway.**

*People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.*

**Help people anyway.**

*Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.*

**Give the world the best you have anyway.**



When you walk the talk, it is not going to be sunshine and rainbows everyday.

I know that. But do it anyway.

### **Think Big**

I found it helps to think big. We need to take on the jobs worth doing.

Dr. Montessori's path to educate the human potential is a big job. A job worth doing.

It begs for teachers and administrators with integrity, with consistency in word and deed.

To educate the human potential is a good answer to the question, "What's my sentence?"

For Maria Montessori we might say her sentence was: She urged us to follow the child and educate the human potential.

Big work requires: Courage, faith and patience.

Courage to know you are doing the right thing. Patience to wait for results. And faith that those results will come.

We are part of a group who strives to build a better world, task by task, day by day, year in and year out, generation by generation.

When we have a vision and a plan that we execute with courage, faith and patience, we understand that we are, indeed, building cathedrals not walls.

The mundane becomes the magnificent.

Humanity becomes our masterpiece.

I challenge you to join the ranks of those who live what they teach.

I challenge you to make your life a masterpiece of your own self-construction.

Live your Montessori principles. Walk the talk.

Because ...

We are building humanity.

**We are educating the human potential.**

**Walk The Talk:**

Let Your Life Speak  
Embrace Paradoxes  
Be Kind  
Do It Anyway  
Think Big...  
And Let Your Light Shine

## Quotes

The universe is an imposing reality and an answer to all questions. ... for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.

Maria Montessori, *To Educate The Human Potential*, p. 5-6

This idea helps the mind of the child to become fixed, to stop wandering in an aimless quest for knowledge. ... The laws governing the universe can be made interesting and wonderful to the child, ... and he begins to ask: What am I? What is the task of man in this wonderful universe? Do we merely live here for ourselves, or is there something more for us to do? Why do we struggle and fight? What is good and evil? Where will it all end?

Maria Montessori, *To Educate The Human Potential*, p. 6

Adults, like children, seem to differ from one another mainly in their defects, but hidden in their hearts there is something deep, common to all ... a continuous tendency to progress.

Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*, p. 209

It is well to cultivate a friendly feeling towards error, to treat it as a companion inseparable from our lives, as something having a purpose, which it truly has.

Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*, p.246

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people will not feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone and as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Marianne Williamson, *A Return To Love*, page 190