

How To Become A Better Observer... *The Montessori Way*

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A Kids Talk Webinar
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Our big underlying question for this session is:

What makes an effective teacher?

Research shows that there are three technical skills that make a difference:

Creating _____

Delivering On-Target _____

Analyzing and Adjusting _____

There is a _____ skill that many teachers lack.

What is this key skill? _____

Becoming an effective observer takes _____ of practice.

In this session you'll find out the answers to these three questions:

1. Why aren't we better observers?
2. What obstacles stand in our way?
3. How can we overcome these obstacles to effective observation?

1. Why aren't we better observers?

We are _____.

We don't understand the importance of _____.

One of the _____ of Montessori philosophy is observation of the child.

It was Dr. Montessori's observations that started it all. In Dr. Montessori's words:

It is not true that I invented what is called the Montessori Method... I have studied the child; I have taken what the child has given me and expressed it, and that is what is called the Montessori Method.

What did Dr. Montessori think was her biggest contribution?

Psychological _____

Another reason we don't observe: observing seems _____.

We lack a _____ to help us observe.

We need to be _____ listeners.

2. What obstacles stand in our way to becoming better observers?

We lack _____ to avoid distractions.

We are also _____ of the power of systematic observation.

What is systematic observation?

Systematic observation is a form of observation used to either support or disprove a hypothesis. For an observation to be systematic, it must be free of bias and must be repeatable.

_____ may be someone you know for her systematic observations of _____.

Another obstacle is that it takes _____ to develop the discipline to sit and watch for an entire _____ of events.

We also lack _____ to help us observe. We lack a construct of how to observe, what to observe, when to observe.

Observation is not a cultural _____.

3. How can we overcome these obstacles to effective observation?

The first step is _____.

The second is _____.

The third is _____.

We have to be aware of distractions and learn to be creative to minimize _____.

We need to understand what _____ is and learn how to use it.

When I learned to observe systematically I found that a lot of other obstacles melted away.

I learned to sit and watch patiently.

Observing became _____ as I knew what I was really looking for.

I became _____ as I knew how to observe, what to observe, and when to observe.

But most importantly, I think, was that I learned to look for the _____ behind the behaviors I was observing.

I learned to ask key _____ to help me clarify my observations.

I learned to _____ to the answers from both children and parents.

I learned that many times the answers to my questions were nothing I had understood, and at times required me to change my attitudes and my practices.

SUMMARY

In this session you've learned:

The major reasons we aren't better observers are because we:

- Need to learn how to deal with distractions
- Need to understand that observation is important
- Need to learn how to make observation fun.
- Need to have a system with constructs to guide us.
- Need to be good listeners and ask questions for deep understanding.
- Need to allow the time to follow a sequence of events.
- Need to overcome cultural norms of observation being "weird" or abnormal.

The good news is that we can overcome these and other obstacles with three steps.

- Awareness.
- Skills training.
- Skills practice.



Questions? Please email me at Maren@MarenSchmidt.com or visit MarenSchmidt.com.