The Absorbent Mind

1. Physical and Psychic Embryo

2. Unconscious Powers
   a. Horme
   b. Mneme
   c. Absorbent Mind

3. Characteristics of the Absorbent Mind
   a. Creative
   b. Functions unconsciously and involuntarily
   c. Universal
   d. Aided by the senses, gathers impressions and stores them
   e. Does not discriminate
   f. Dynamic
   g. Acts globally
   h. Establishes contact with whatever it encounters
   i. Does not matter if simple or complex
   j. Analogy of camera

4. Sub-phases
   a. Birth to three
   b. Three to six

5. Process of Adaptation

6. Examples of Acquisition
   a. Language
   b. Movement
   c. Culture/social behavior

7. Role of the Environment/Adult

Reading:
Montessori, Maria. *The Absorbent Mind*, Chapters 3-7
Montessori, Maria. *The Formation of Man*, Part II, Section III ("The ‘Nebulae’")
Montessori, Maria. *The Child in the Family*, Chapter 1
Standing, E.M. *Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work*, Chapters 6 and 16

Handouts:
“Montessori Terms Relating to Absorbent Mind”
“Stages of the Embryo”
“Absorbent Mind Quotes from Dr. Montessori’s Colombo Lectures, 1944”