

MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES

Lesson 3: Vital developmental stages



These developmental crises are vitally important for your child to create human characteristics.

The important part to remember is that when you're aware of these you won't need to take their actions personally!

- **BIRTH:** a huge separation into a completely different environment, breathing and being a physically separate person.
- **WEANING** (around 6 months): a further step in separation and change of physical digestion.
- **OBJECTIVATION** (around 8-10 months): realising something or someone can exist even though they can't be seen (fear of strangers and separation anxiety).
- **SELF-AFFIRMATION** (around 15-30 months): I am an entirely separate person to my parents. I can affect the world ("No." "Mine.").

Levels of Obedience:

1. I obey my innate instincts (eat, breathe, move, explore)
2. I obey you if it matches my internal developmental needs.
3. I know all the rules and I choose to obey them mostly (4 years+).

The first years of life are when your child is developing their ability to be obedient. It takes a long time!

Try to remember these points when they won't listen or do as they've been asked:

- Freedom and obedience are equally important for a balanced life.
- If you want your child to be assertive when necessary, this means they will test how to do it with you first.
- Stay calm, keep to gentle and consistent limits. You'll help them learn when it's appropriate to find a compromise, and when they need to do as they've been asked.

Reflections:

- Can you think of examples of when your child has been unconsciously responding to these natural urges?
- Are there situations when it might help you to be aware of these natural developmental characteristics?

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