

Introduction to Articulated Language

The development of articulate speech begins at birth and continues until around age 7 when refinement of speech follows. Our youngest children are in the age of perceptions, in which their attention is spontaneously turned towards **external objects** and their **memory is particularly tenacious**. The recognition of **“the word”** takes place, it is perceived and associated with the object which it represents. This is also the age of mobility, when all the psycho-motor channels are becoming permeable, and when the muscular mechanisms become fixed. At this period of life, because of the mysterious bond that links the auditory and motor channels of spoken language, it seems that auditory perceptions have the power to excite the complicated movements of articulate speech, which develop instinctively under the influence of each stimuli.

In the Montessori classroom to support the children in their sensitive period of articulated language, the adult strives to speak clearly, with proper expression and modulation. We provide exercises, games, and materials in order to enrich and correct articulated language including:

- Reading, Singing and Telling Stories
- Reading and Reciting Poetry
- Simple and Classified Nomenclature Cards- to increase vocabulary
- The Question Game- to become conscious of the logical construction of the child’s language
- Games for the Analysis of the Spoken Word- the analysis of the sounds which form a word
- The I Spy Game

These games lay a strong foundation for higher language, the *dictorium**, which develops during the Elementary years. Just as spoken language develops through the exercise of its mechanisms and is enriched by perceptions, so the dictorium develops with the mind and is enriched by intellectual culture.

All these enriching activities can be done at home. We will provide a video and an accompanying lesson plan to support you. Look for the videos as we add them.

**Dictorium-“...what Kussmaul calls dictorium, that is the grammatical, synthetic formation of the language necessary for the expression of complex ideas, that is, the language of the logical mind.” (Discovery of the Child, the chapter titled, The Speech of The Child)*