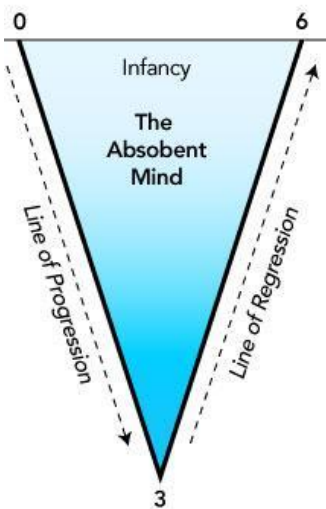


## The Absorbent Mind and Sensitive Periods

A way to describe the child's mind in the early years is that they just absorb knowledge without anybody teaching them. Sensitive periods are a particular time where the child can focus their attention on certain aspects of their environment to the exclusion of others.



The *line of progression* highlights the child's ability to **absorb** information from the environment using **the sensitive periods**. The *line of regression* highlights the years they are gaining and then refining this information.

With no effort at all, the child unconsciously absorbs life, adapts to their environment, and creates who they are as a human being. No task is too great for the child. Even the most complex of languages is absorbed when the child is exposed to it, as well as culture, music, movement, and all other characteristics that set humans apart from the rest of the animal world.

Absorbent mind features:

- An absorbent mind is found in every child around the world.
- It is different from the adult mind
- It takes no effort to take in information
- It has no limits to what can be learnt
- It functions 24/7
- It is creative by nature
- It takes everything in, without seeing differences

Sensitive periods are universal exact times in a child's life which reveal the child's intense interest in an area, e.g., language development, movement, writing, order, reading, small objects, grace and courtesy and refinement of the senses. Sensitive periods create an intense engagement in the formation of neural pathways in the developing child's brain. The Montessori pedagogy bases teaching and learning practices to reflect these sensitive periods during specific times in a child's life.

Sensitive Period features:

- These sensitive time periods are found in every child around the world
- They are limited in timing
- They do not come back around again
- They come gradually, reach a peak, and then disappear
- Different sensitive periods overlap
- You can see/observe sensitive periods happening
- The learning the child gains during these times take no effort from them obtain.

