

Human Tendencies and Sensitive Periods

As parents, it is helpful to understand the following:

1. **The Human Tendencies:** Tendencies that exist in all humans throughout their entire lives.

- Adaptation and Orientation
- Exploration
- Exactness
- Order
- Communication
- Repetition
- Activity (particularly of the hand)
- Abstract Thought and Imagination
- Exactness, Control of Error, Perfection
- Spiritual Life

2. **The Sensitive Periods** (birth to six-plus years of age): Periods when a child is most ready to perceive a particular knowledge.

- 0 – 6+ Absorbent Mind
- 0 – 6 Need for facts
- 0 – 5 ½ Language
- 6 months – 5 Order (2 – 4 years is strongest)
- 1 ½ – 4 Love of small objects (involves a sense of wonder and praise)
- 2 ½ – 4 Perfection of Movement
- 3 – 6 Senses (3 ½ – 4 ½ is strongest)
- 3 ½ – 4 ½ Writing
- 4 – 5 ½ Numbers
- 4 ½ – 5 ½ Reading



Birth to 6 Years of Age	6 to 12 Years of Age
Work of the Absorbent Mind	The Dawn of Reason
Sensitive Period for Language Oral vocabulary Learning to talk Writing Reading	Continued need for development of Vocabulary Comprehension Research Presenting in differing formats Interpreting – Writing in own words Drawing conclusions
Order Great internal sense of order and need for order in the Environment.	Lack of External Order Too busy studying the order of the universe.
Acute Tactile Sense Love of small objects.	Love of Big Projects Big work. Important jobs.
Perfection of movement Development of small and large motor skills. Infant's movement of hands, feet, legs, arms. Crawling. Walking. Carrying, pouring. Proper posture, carriage. Small motor development in holding a writing instrument.	Refined Development of Movement Skipping, hopping on one foot. Running with purpose. Large muscle co-ordination. Organized movement – games, team sports. Perfection of small motor skills. Beautiful penmanship. Various forms of writing. Beautiful illustrations. Visual acuity and perception in reproducing illustrations.
Need for Facts, not Fiction or Fantasy Real objects, real people, real information. Presentations are given individually, in isolation, and with contrast.	Need for Knowledge, Knowledge of the Universe Ability to discern fact from fiction. Need to know the 'hows and whys'. Ability to use their imagination. Presentations generally given in groups. We present the rules and then help the child apply the rules and observe similarities.
Focus is on Self Gradually begins to interact and then work with another child. Later, two or three friends become important.	Herd Instinct Must play and work together. Anxious to share ideas and knowledge. Gregarious and boisterous. Time of hero worship.
Tend to Get Colds, Flu, More Often	Hale, Hearty, Less Apt to Get Sick
	Period of Great Endeavor
	Great Sense of Justice and Morality

Birth to Adulthood: Individual is striving for independence in order to **construct him/herself** as a viable, participating human being.

