

# Human Tendencies

Dr. Maria Montessori recognized the behavioral tendencies of mankind, which have guaranteed both its survival and quality of life over the ages. They are a realistic basis upon which to build a child's education. Human beings do not possess instincts as animals do. Instead, human beings have tendencies toward behaviors that help them fulfill their needs and reach their human potential. Throughout life, humans rely on ingenuity and adaptability for survival. This occurs regardless of color, race, culture, religion or sex. Understanding each of the tendencies should guide the adult in the careful preparation of the environment and in recognizing the appropriate links between the child and his surroundings: These are the very characteristics that call to the soul of the child.

## Tendency (definition)

*A predisposition to think, act, behave, or proceed in a particular way*

## Human Tendency (definition)

*certain behaviors are the means by which the child becomes a part of a specific human group and reaches individual potential.*

1. **Exploration:** Children are natural curious and love to use their senses as they absorb the world around them. This is the predominant force during even the earliest days. A child's freedom to explore is crucial to understanding the world and assimilating the information attained.
2. **Communication:** Humans delight in conveying thoughts, feelings, and knowledge to others. Various types of communication are acknowledged. Receptive language begins prior to expressive language which is then followed by conversational language. It allows the sensory world to be labeled and individuals to have the opportunity to cooperate with one another. It is the bridge to knowledge and a link to understanding the world and its people.
3. **Exactness:** Humans seek to be precise in their work. It is the capacity of an individual to refine and adjust information so it fits together in a way we understand.
4. **Manipulation:** Humans need to take hold of their environment and understand it. It is the next step after exploration. Once enticed by an object, one will want to use it in some way. These become the "tools" in the environment.
5. **Order:** People prefer order to chaos and confusion. A solid foundation is built in the seeming chaos through order. Order brings predictability and security. There is internal and external order. An orderly classroom helps a child have orderly thoughts. Patterns and routines are critical in assimilating knowledge and understanding of the world during the early years.

# Human Tendencies

6. **Activity:** Humans generally like to stay busy. It is the experience through action and things in the environment that develops the mind. Within activities there are cycles, time, purpose, and process. Activities can be abstract games or concrete manipulations.
7. **Repetition:** Humans repeat task over and over again until correctness and confidence is achieved. A normalized child comes in and out of purposeful activities, repeating whatever is necessary to gain complete understanding. Even after mastery, a human will repeat activities that provide a feeling of confidence.
8. **Orientation:** Human beings want to know their relationship to the environment around them. It is important to know where we all fit in and are a part of the larger whole. It provides an understanding to the limits and boundaries within an environment. It helps them understand the coordination of their body as well as communicate the location of objects around them.
9. **Abstraction:** This tendency sets us apart from animals. We are able to visualize events that haven't occurred. We are able to feel and express emotions that are not tangible. Imagination makes this possible and urges it to push forward. It helps us change our thinking and make understanding without concrete objects.
10. **Work:** Humans become worthwhile through their work. It leads to a feeling of accomplishment and self respect. Through work, a child create's his true self. The child is impelled by forces of life and nature when survival depends on it.
11. **Precision:** Manipulation and control of error encourage the brain to signal the hand to repeat and exercise until perfection is acquired. All the tendencies culminate to this one. Once we have explore, manipulated, and worked in our environment, we can perfect our activities. We are masters of our minds as well as the tasks we set out to do.