



**Leading a Montessori Elementary Classroom  
Monograph Series, Vol. II**

# **Designing the Classroom Environments**

**physical, behavioral, emotional, spiritual**

**by  
Betsy A. Lockhart**

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# Designing the Classroom Environments

*Leading a Montessori Elementary Program* is a collection of monographs on topics pertinent to classroom design, implementation, management, and leadership. In essence, it is the implementation of the Montessori Method in real classrooms.

This monograph, *Designing the Classroom Environments* is suitable for new and experienced teachers in any school who are looking for a fresh outlook with new, proven techniques for creating a more peaceful, more productive working environment. It begins with the physical classroom (indoors and outdoors), exploring design considerations when preparing the environment for the child: furniture/equipment design and placement, supplies, display methods, storage for children, adults, and materials, pets and plants, and more. Behavioral models and methods for shaping children's choices, as well as proven methods for creating a caring classroom community are explored. Implementing Dr. Montessori's "Education and Peace" in the classroom is also discussed. This monograph highlights best practices and includes discussions of the relative advantages and disadvantages of many of the more common choices made in effective Montessori classrooms.

*"Plainly, the environment must be a living one, directed by a higher intelligence, arranged by an adult who is prepared for his mission."*  
- Maria Montessori



## ***Other Monographs on Leading a Montessori Elementary Classroom by Betsy Lockhart:***

*Volume One: Introduction to Montessori at the Elementary Level*

*Volume Three: Planning Work in the Montessori Elementary Classroom*

*Volume Four: Structuring Work in the Montessori Elementary Classroom*

*Volume Five: Feedback and Grades*

*Volume Six: The Use of Effective Observation in a Montessori Classroom*

*Volume Seven: Formal Observation Tools and Techniques*

*Volume Eight: Parents as Partners*

*Volume Nine: The Rest of the Partnership*

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*Over the years, I have come to realize more and more deeply that teaching, at its core, has less to do with instructing than with deeply connecting. It is all about knowing each child and each family individually: awakening interests, fanning the flames of passion, opening doors of opportunity, and removing barriers to learning. It is about inspiring and modeling awe for the world around us. It is about showing children how truly capable they are. It is especially about guiding them to make thoughtful, principled decisions in their daily life that nurture and garner respect, and enabling them to realize that those choices empower them to make a difference in people's lives: their own, their best friends', as well as strangers' half a world away.*

*-Betsy Lockhart*