

Montessori Comparison of Early Childhood Characteristics

3 TO 6 YEARS OLD

Great physical growth - coordinating body
body movements

Credulous - must deal with reality

Loves to repeat

Needs details to build overview

Absorbs everything

Process oriented

Concrete

Order and organization is primary goal

Ego-centered

Loves beauty

Works and obeys out of love

Developing independence and self-reliance

Attached to family and environment

Needs protection and non-interference

Needs model of movement and order

6 TO 9 YEARS OLD

Great mental growth - coordinating knowledge

Great imagination - can now deal with the
abstract

Dislikes repetition

Needs overview to organize details

Can be selective

Goal oriented - needs practical aspect

Ready for abstraction

Concept and acquisition of skills is primary goal

Social

Loves knowledge

Works and obeys from a sense of duty and
responsibility to the group

Developing mental independence and moral
code

Ready to explore the world

Needs adult help and guidance - structure

Needs model of ideals