# Theory and Background

## Table of Contents

- Introduction to Elementary Montessori Theory  
  1  
- Education as an Aid to Life  
  2  
- Observations  
  3  
- Construction of the Human Being and the Human Tendencies  
  5  
- An Overview of the Four Planes of Development  
  23  
- The Second Plane of Development: The Child from Six to Twelve Years  
  33  
- The Third Plane of Development: The Young Person from Twelve to Eighteen Years  
  45  
- Cosmic Education  
  54  
- Cosmic Education - essay  
  60  
- Imagination  
  62  
- The "Great Lessons" and the Key Lessons  
  69  
- "Going Out"  
  78  
- Practicalities of "Going Out"  
  87  
- The Upper Elementary Class (Nine to Twelve Years)  
  91  
- Freedom and Responsibility  
  99  
- Recordkeeping  
  109  
- Parent Education  
  115  
- Running an Elementary Class  
  119  
- Planning the First Three Days  
  134  
- Suggested Reading List  
  140  
- Appendix: Observation Guidelines  
  141