

**The psychological  
characteristics and needs of  
the “newly born” adolescent  
...**

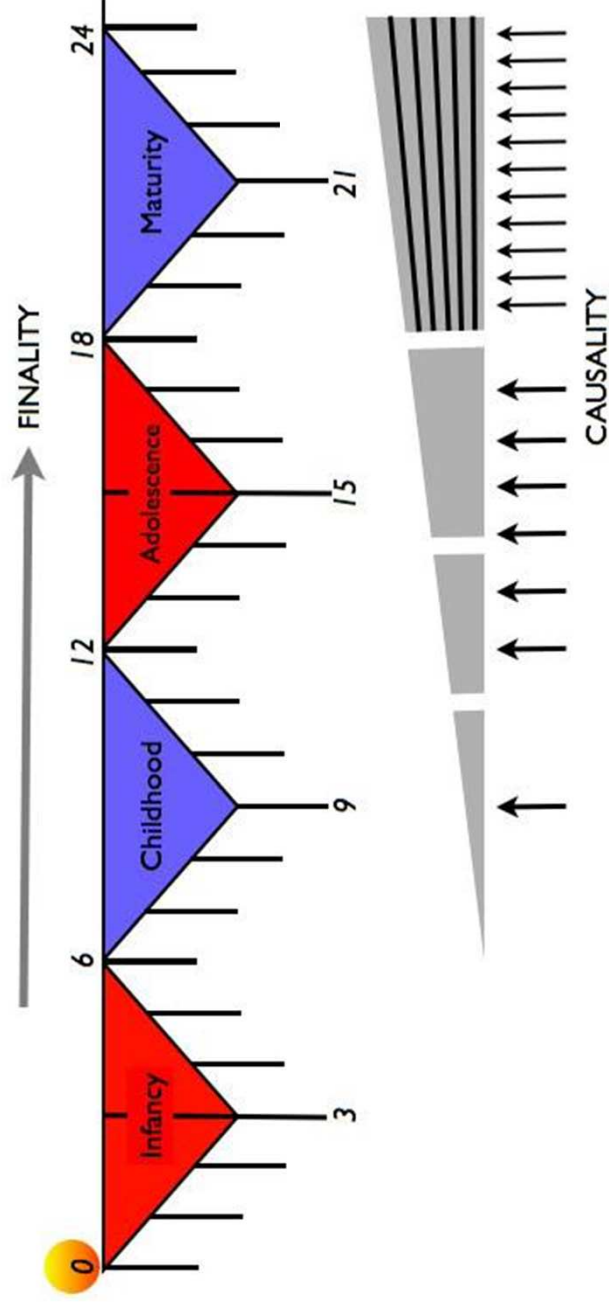
**Chris Gilham, Pelham am See**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

*"We must ask ourselves if we are really acquainted with the true characteristics of the adolescent, if we know what true normality means in working with adolescents." The Adolescent as a social newborn...*

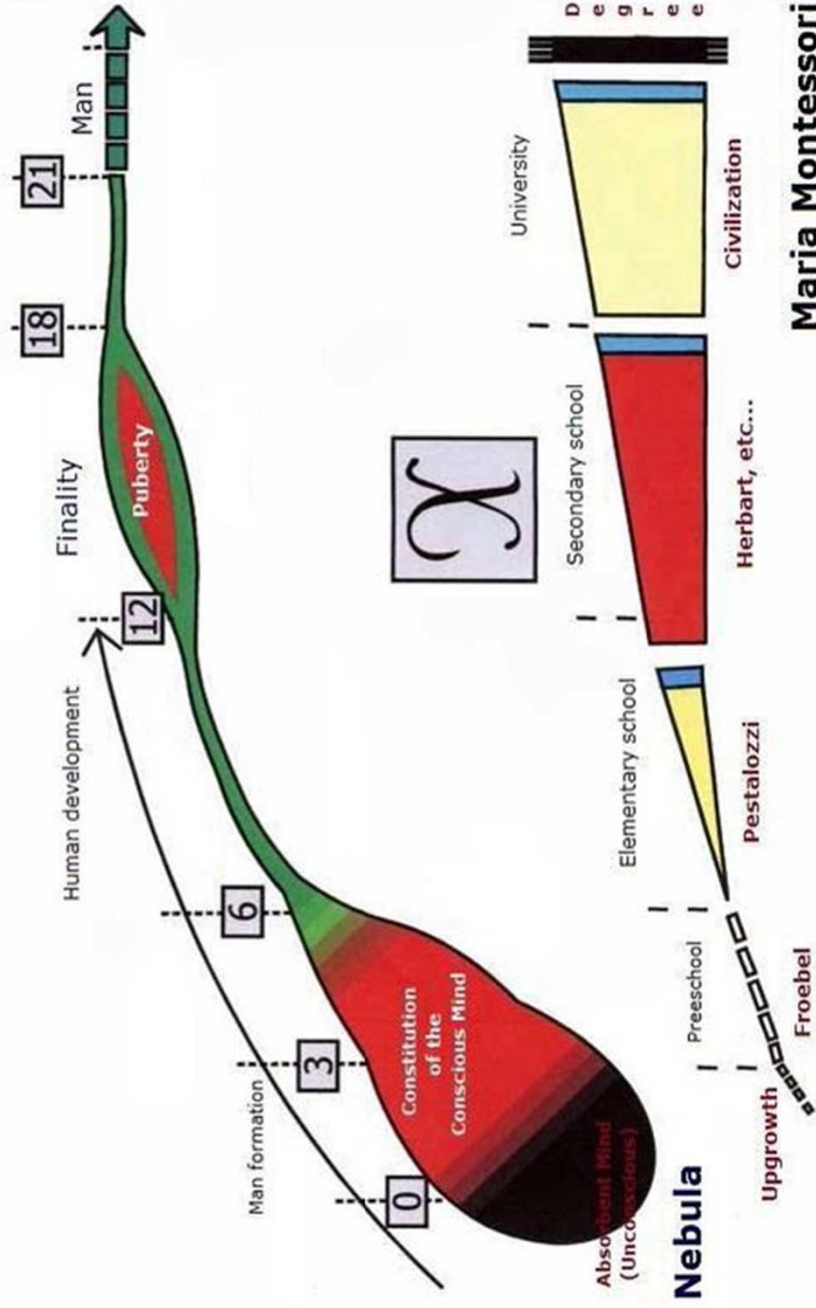
# The Four Planes of Development

## The Constructive Rhythm of Life



Maria Montessori  
Perugia 1950

# Four stages of development The Bulb



**Maria Montessori  
Rome - 1951**

*"... Schools as they are today, are adapted neither to the needs of adolescence, nor to the times in which we live... While material progress has been extremely rapid and social life has been completely transformed, the schools have remained in a kind of arrested development..."* M. Montessori, From childhood to adolescence

<https://youtu.be/b9qHmDuKq5k>

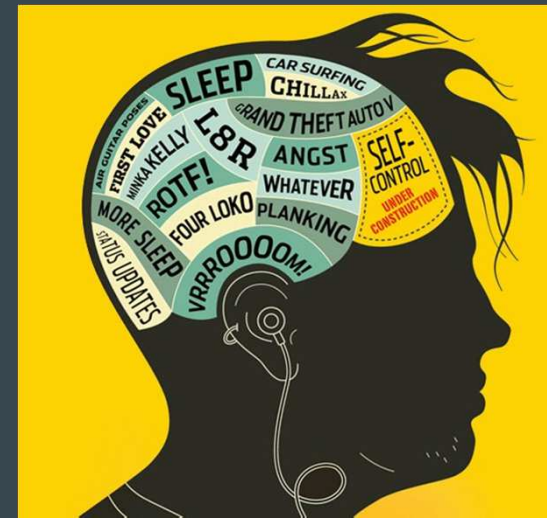
The fundamental dichotomy  
of adolescence:

...

Rebirth & mystery

# What's going on in the adolescent's brain?

- New dendrite growth; new neural pathways (use 'em or lose 'em!)
- A sense of disconnectedness
- Occasional lack of judgement
- inability to interpret people socially
- Low motivation levels
- The beginning of meta cognition
- Identity formation



**Immense physical, psychological and emotional transformation**

**Erdkinder**



**The children of the land**

**The need for physical work and knowledge**



## Characteristic questions:

- Who am I?
- How do I fit in?
- How can I serve others?

A time of strong emotions and great creativity (self creation)



The arts and language are essential

# A delicate time of transition



...



They are no longer children, but neither are they adults

## **Social Characteristics**

- Clumsy with social skills (they need our guidance)
- Meaningful work in the community enables social cohesion
- They need to share their experience with their peers and adults
- Freedom of choice is vital
- Trust

# Moral Characteristics



Social organization, leading to social harmony is how moral development happens in the third plane.  
The normalized adolescent is a noble adolescent.

# The Role of the adult

We need to:

- model hard work
- offer standards
- offer expectations of quality
- offer limits
- share in dialogue and debate
- listen
- empathize
- care
- and above all INSPIRE



**The stereotyped image of the adolescent is a fallacy, created by adults who have continuously failed to cater for young people's fundamental needs.**



Thank you for your  
attention  
Danke schön