

## ABSTRACT

Master Thesis

### THE EFFECT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF MONTESSORI METHOD ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANUAL SKILLS OF 5-6 YEAR-OLD-CHILDREN

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The study has been made in order to analyze the effect of the “Activities of Montessori Method” on the development of 5-6 year old children’s manual skills (Skills of Drawing-Painting and Object Usage). The sample group is consist of 32 children aged 5-6 years and old studying at the implementation centre under the Adnan Menderes University (ADÜ) Faculty of Education in the province of Aydın and a private kindergarten under the Ministry of National Education (MEB). The research is a trial model of *pre-test* and *final-test* and control groups. After the experiment and control groups had been formed according to the related model the sub-lists of the “List of Manual Skills Control” (Skills of Drawing-Painting and Object Usage) developed by the researcher have been fulfilled as the pre-test for both groups. Throughout 12 weeks, 48 activities of Montessori Method education programme have been applied to the experiment group. We, to the control group, applied activities existing in Pre-School Education programme of MEB (the Ministry of National Education) and aiming to develop the children’s manual skills. No intervention has occurred in the daily education activities of the control group. Following the 12 week process, the “List of Manual Skills Control” has been re-applied to both experiment and control groups as the final-test and the compiled data has been analyzed and evaluated. Mann Whitney U Test was used to determine whether the children’s average pre-test scores of the “List of Manual Skills Control” and “Sub-Lists of Skills of Drawing-Painting and Object Usage” are significantly different or not, and Wilcoxon Signed-Ranks Test was used in order to determine if the average final-test scores differentiated.

According to the compiled data no significant difference was seen between average pre-test scores of the experiment and control groups for “Sub-Lists of Skills of Drawing-Painting and Object Usage” of the “List of Manual Skills Control” ( $p>05$ ). After the educational programme related to Montessori Method, it was found that there was, in favour of experimental group, a significant difference between the average final-test scores of experimental and control group ( $p<05$ ).

Research results have showed that manual skill acquisitions of experimental group with Montessori Education is higher than that of children in the control group with Pre-School Education Program of the MEB.

**Keywords:** Pre-School Education, Montessori Method, Manual Skills, Skills of Drawing-Painting and Object Usage