

***Nurturing the Spirit in Non-Sectarian Classrooms* by Aline D. Wolf**

Questions to Consider in Small Group Discussions

For Montessori teachers who have read the book.
Suggestions compiled by the author.

- 1) How can you recognize the spiritual moments in your classroom? How can you take advantage of them? How can you handle children's questions or remarks about religion in a non-sectarian classroom: For example: "Where does God live?" "My Grandpa went to heaven."
- 2) How can you add a spiritual dimension to your classroom environment? Consider wall space, special corners, pictures, symbols, or books.
- 3) How can you add a spiritual dimension to your classroom routine? Consider recitations, songs, games, nature activities, and greetings and farewells.
- 4) How can you create a sense of community in your classroom? What words can you use frequently to remind children that they are all part of this community? What projects can you have that will show children the results of working cooperatively?
- 5) How can you add a spiritual dimension to celebrations and special events in you classroom? Consider birthdays, holidays, field trips, seasonal celebrations, and religious holidays in a non-sectarian setting.
- 6) How can you add a spiritual dimension to the way you handle problems in your classroom? Give examples of peaceful conflict resolution, working for the good of the classroom community, or using the Golden Rule.
- 7) How do you see community in your school setting? Is there a sense of community among the staff? Is there a wider sense of community that involves the children, staff, and parents? Give examples as well as ideas to improve the community.

**If you wish to purchase copies of *Nurturing the Spirit* (R80),
visit www.montessoriservices.com or call 800-214-8959.**