**Essential Components of the Prepared Environment for Creating a**

**Peace Literate (PL) Culture of Respect and Belonging in a**

**Montessori Learning Community**

**4. The Child**

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| **Essential Components** | **Details for your grade band** |
| **Needs and characteristics of the child** are recognized and centered, including their:  9 non-physical needs  Need for uninterrupted work cycles  Need for collaborative work in age-mixed cohorts  **Four fundamental freedoms of the child** are respected:   * What to work on * Where to work * With whom to work * How long to continue with a chosen work   c) **Independent learning and internal motivation of the child** is cultivated, e.g.,   * “Ask 3 before me” is a common Montessori practice, reminding children to ask three others before going to an educator with a need or question * Self-directed learning is supported by choice of work with manipulatives, requests to educators for lessons and choosing to work with peers * Children are given jobs to care for classroom nature * All materials, activities and new objects are introduced with a lesson so that children are proactively taught the expectations for handling an object or completing a task or activity * They demonstrate their competence by showing an adult they can do it * Then they are free to do it independently |  |