

Partnerships With Parents - Life Skills

Children need is to have specific exercises, as closely linked to real life as possible, that allow them to master the tasks that they see going on around them in everyday life, we refer to those exercises as "practical life" activities. Children are not interested in achieving end results as quickly as possible, but are far more interested in the learning processes. As a result they will happily repeat exercises again and again until they feel satisfied. Practical life activities are therefore an important part of the classroom environment. The young child is attracted to activities that he/she sees going on around him and that give him/her independence and control of their own life. We introduce classroom materials and exercises that allow children the maximum possible opportunity to learn how to both look after themselves and their environment. In the practical life area you will see things such as special frames to help children learn to do up and undo clothes, lots of spooning and pouring exercises, stirring, whisking and grating trays, cutting and threading activities and many other activities that children see going on around them at home. Practical life also includes helping children do other important tasks such as opening and closing doors, carrying trays and chairs, washing and drying hands, caring for books and blowing noses! This area in the classroom naturally builds with the child his/her confidence and competence. It becomes what Dr. Montessori called "help for life". The added purpose is that children, who work on real tasks involving the hand and mind, develop a great capacity for concentration, which is the best preparation for intellectual work to come.

What Can You Do At Home?

At home provide children access to all the things they need to learn, without needing your help to access. They may want to draw, cut, stick, count, write, make books, build towers or read. At home they can also learn that everything can be found in its own place and that it helps others if things get put back again in the same place. So children tend to be pretty thoughtful about others and tidy. This process encourages respecting self, others and the environment.

If you can provide the same thing at home it will help your child to maintain the same level of consideration and independence. Special cupboards and shelves, all easily accessible, and beautiful materials and activities, all carefully laid out in boxes and trays, help the child feel that his or her work really matters. Many of the activities that are provided at school can easily be duplicated in the home. And if you ask your child's teachers they will let you know what things your child is particularly interested in at the time. One of the most important things we can do for children is to follow their interests - to really know what they are excited about and to provide as much support and further activities as possible for them to explore and understand.

Curriculum ages 3-6

Practical Life

- Grace and courtesy
- Care of person
- Care of indoor environment
- Care of outdoor environment

Sensorial

- Size and shape
 - Cylinders
 - Pink Tower
 - Broad Stair
 - Knob less cylinders
- Geometric shapes and solids
- Constructive Triangles
- Color tablets and mixing
- Stereognosis- - What the hand feels
- Smelling
- Tasting
- What the ear hears
 - Sound cylinders
 - Listening games
- Music
 - Singing
 - The Bells
 - Music dynamics
 - Introduction to written music
 - Terminology

Math

- Number Rods
- Sandpaper numbers
- Spindle Box
- Number cards and counters
- Writing numbers
- Golden beads
- Bird's eye view of the decimal system
- Short bead stair
- Reading numbers
- 100 bead chain
- Group introduction to operations with golden beads
- Operations with other materials
- Factors
- Multiples
- Small metal insets
- Fractions

Language

- Pre-reading
Picture and word cards
Picture and sentence books
Matching games
- Metal insets
- Sequencing
- Sandpaper letters
- Initial sounds
- Rhyming
- Beginning writing
- Movable alphabet
- Association of sound and symbol
- Reading
- Creative Writing

Geography

- Land and water forms
Lake/Island
Cape/Bay
Peninsula/Gulf
Isthmus/Strait
- Globes
Land and water
World map
Continent map
US map
Map orientation
Washington

Science

- Astronomy
Planets
Earth
- Geology

Botany

- The life cycle of the plant – what a green plant needs to grow
The parts of a plant and their functions
The tree
The leaf
- Physical Science
Solids, Liquid, and gas
Movement
Magnets