

Montessori in the Home

When you enter your child in a Montessori class and become a part of the Montessori family, it is of the utmost importance that the home and the school work in harmony toward the development of the child. Below are some things that can be provided in the home.

Bathroom:

1. Step-up stool for the toilet and the sink.
2. Small bar of soap within reach of the child.
3. Low mirror- child should be able to see when he brushes teeth/washes face.
4. Small washcloth and towel.
5. Toothbrush within reach of child.
6. Small night light so child is able to see light switch.
7. Low shelf for child's materials; towel rack with shelf.
8. Tub toys (measuring spoons, cups, funnel, etc.)

Bedroom:

1. Closet- low pole with hangers.
2. Bed close to the floor for very young children .
3. Low shelf to display toys and treasures within reach (only a few at a time).
4. Drawers- drawer for socks, underwear, etc., or use shoeboxes to separate items if only one drawer is available.
5. Nice picture- hung low (only one), change once a month. Talk about the art- picture and artist.
6. Book shelf- only 3 or 4 books at a time.
7. If windows are high, a stool so the child can look outside.
8. Plant in room- watering can and sponge on tray so child can care for plant.

Living Room:

1. Small, comfortable chair and table with books and a good reading light.
2. Beautiful interesting objects child can look at and handle.

Kitchen:

1. Child's own chair and table at proper height.
2. Step stool to reach water.
3. Sponge, towel, and bowl on tray to clean up spills.
4. Have children pack their own lunch. It's easier if they do this at night. Good nutrition is important, NO JUNK FOODS!
5. Child can be helpful buying and putting away groceries.

Your child needs to be a contributor in the family and feel his contribution is important!

Useful chores your child can do at home:

1. Car washing.
2. Scrubbing the sink in the bathroom or kitchen. Baking soda is a great non-toxic cleaner for children to use.
3. Dusting with a cloth or a brush.
4. Setting the table.
5. Loading and unloading the dishwasher.
6. Stacking dishes.
7. Folding the laundry- napkins, washcloths, and towels.
8. Wiping down table and countertops.
9. Sweeping- provide a child-sized broom, dustpan, and whisk brush.
10. Rolling and pairing socks.
11. Weeding.
12. Plant care- watering. Give names of plants.
13. Feeding pets.
14. Sorting recycling.

Other notes:

The correct name of every item should be given. Nicknames or slang terms should be avoided.

Use adult vocabulary in conversation with your child. New words are fascinating, and eventually he will use them in his speech and writing.

Your child should be exposed to very few toys. A shelf for neat storage should be available, not a toy box.

Television:

Decide what programs you think are worthwhile. Documentaries and nature shows are preferable over fantasy characters. LIMIT TELEVISION- BE VERY SELECTIVE.

DURING MEALTIME, DO NOT HAVE THE TV ON. It's a nice time for the family to have conversation.

Research shows that too much television inhibits a child's ability to write or read effectively. Your child's intellect is developed through ACTIVITY, not passive listening.