

Montessori at Home

Here are some ways to introduce Montessori learning into your home.

TOYS AND PLAY AREAS

Children should have a "main" play area that is prepared in an attractive and safe manner. Small areas in other rooms are also appropriate.

Young Children	Emergent Readers	Older Students
1. Low Shelves.	Same but add: 1. Word labels with picture.	1. Label toys and games if necessary.
2. Select toys and books in manageable quantities.	2. Increase the quantities of items.	2. Game pieces can be stored in small containers that are labeled.
3. Containers for each separate toy.	3. Have child help to organize, label and sort toys.	3. Add a study area that is quiet and conducive to promoting good study habits-no TV.
4. Label containers with photographs or pictorial representation of toy- also try labeling the shelf with same.	4. Have a job chart to indicate when toys and shelving should be dusted.	
5. Display books so front of book is seen.	5. Add a desk area with lamp.	
6. Main play area plus spaces in other rooms.	6. Add a clock to the room- digital and regular clock face.	
7. Model putting toys away.		
8. Have a feather duster or cleaning supplies for the child to clean the shelves and toys.		
9. Rotate toys- keep an area of the home where toys can be stored when not in use.		

KITCHEN

Remember that we are helping the child to be as independent as possible.

Young Children	Emergent Readers	Older Students
1. For young children, have a low cabinet shelf containing their supplies- cereal in a small container they can pour or scoop	1. Allow the child to gain more freedom in the kitchen but maintain a similar routine of keeping their foods and supplies within	1. Children of this age are ready to begin cooking projects at home with less supervision. Of course,

from, their bowl, cups, spoons, snacks they are allowed to have.

2. In the refrigerator, keep supplies on a low shelf-a small pitcher of water, milk or other drinks. A container with refrigerated snacks.

3. The dishwasher door when opened makes an excellent space for a young child to pour and prepare food.

4. Children can help choose the lunch items they want to pack or from the lunch menu.

reach.

2. Children can also begin to read labels at home or the store to determine nutritional values of the food they choose.

3. It is important for children to help with food preparation and cooking.

4. Children can begin preparation of their lunch for the next day with supervision and guidance. They can read the lunch menu and select days they want to buy lunch.

if they are using the stove or sharp instruments, adult supervision is necessary.

2. Now is a good time for your child to invite friends over for a party where he or she prepares the food, sets the tables, chooses the decorations etc.

3. Children can be responsible for packing their own lunch or selecting from the lunch menu. A good math lesson is totaling the amount due for lunches and requesting the check from mom or dad.

LAUNDRY AND CLOTHING

Young Children

1. Young children can help to fold washed clothes and sort dirty clothes.

2. With help, children can put away their clothes in drawers they can reach. Labeling spaces with pictures of clothing items can help.

Emergent Readers

1. Children of this age can take more responsibility for sorting and putting away laundry.

Older Students

1. By 10 years old, children can learn to use the washing machine and do their own laundry-as they grow into teenage years this can alleviate the-"where's my blue shirt" syndrome!

BATHROOM

Young Children

1. Children should have a stool so they can reach the sink and toilet.

2. Toothbrush and

Emergent Readers

1. Continue with the same ideas as for the young child but give the child increasing independence in the

Older Students

1. As children approach puberty; they need lessons in proper hygienic care.

toothpaste should be easy to use and reach.

3. A small basket with necessary items for simple hygiene can be placed on a cabinet shelf so the child can reach and use it.

4. Helping to clean the bathroom is necessary for the child to take ownership in what belongs to them.

5. Bathtub toys should be organized in containers so the child can easily put them away or take them out.

bathroom.

2. A daily checklist of hygienic care can be added to the environment, for example:

Brush teeth
Wash face
Take a bath
Wash hair

2. Other supplies may need to be added to their kit in the bathroom such as deodorant, pads for girls, etc.

3. By this age, children should be able to manage their own bath and care.

4. A checklist is still helpful or a set of 3X5 cards with each task written on one card as a reminder.

CHOICES

Giving choices is a very important part of a democratic parenting style

Young Children

1. Choices should be limited to two- Do you want to go to bed in 10 minutes or in 5 minutes? Would you like one pancake or two pancakes? Allow the child to choose because this gives them a sense of control. It is often a good way to avoid power struggles.

THERE IS NO CHOICE IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION!

Emergent Readers

1. Choices can be more liberal. For instance, you may have a discussion about bedtime -Would you like to have a bedtime of 8PM or 8:15 PM? Giving the child the opportunity to choose helps them own the situation when questions arise.

Older Students

1. Choices continue to be the foundation of a good democratic parenting style however, there are some things about which there can be no choice. Determine what those non-negotiable items are and be sure your child understands the limits.

Giving choices builds trust for later years.

