

Montessori Primary Curriculum

The curriculum that follows shows the sequential activities/concepts introduced to the child by year. These activities/concepts will be repeated and reinforced throughout the cycle for the child to achieve mastery. Each child however, moves through the curriculum in his or her own individual way following his or her own inner guide and developmental time table. The guide reflects the curriculum sequence within a three-year cycle. Though displayed in a chronological sequence for ease of presentation, the pace of learning is dictated by the child's developmental readiness. Montessori education acknowledges the sometimes uneven acquisition of skills. The curriculum therefore must be accepted as a general instructional sequence and will vary according to the child's motivation and readiness.

Primary Practical Life

The Practical Life area of the Classroom is the area in which a child acquires the basic skill needed for daily living. The curriculum in practical Life incorporates fine and gross motor skills, care of the person, care of the environment, grace and courtesy and food preparation. Initially the materials are simple with few steps, but become more complex requiring many steps.

1st Year (3 Year Olds)

Able to spoon, tong, pour, and tweeze

Able to squeeze a sponge

Able to fold cloth

Able to handwash

Able to scrub a table and floor

Able to dishwash

Able to funnel and baste

Able to do beginning sewing

Able to snap and button

Able to zip and buckle

Able to open and close containers

Able to set a table

Able to polish a mirror

Able to polish wood

Able to polish a shoe

Able to sweep and dust

Able to mop

Able to slice a banana

Able to wash and chop celery

Able to juice an orange

Able to use a mortar and pestle

Able to water and clean plants

2nd Year (4 Year Olds)

Able to funnel and baste

Able to linen wash

Able to sew a button

Able to wash, peel and chop carrots

Able to peel and slice an apple

3rd Year (5 Year Olds)

Able to do advanced sewing

Able to tie and braid

Able to lace

Primary Sensorial

The sensorial materials help the child acquire the ability to make judgments, to compare and to discriminate on the basis of size, shape, color, weight, texture, temperature, smell, taste and sound. The sensorial apparatus also focuses on enrichment of the child's vocabulary. In addition, these materials are designed to prepare the child indirectly for future learning, especially in the areas of art, language, and math.

1st Year (3 Year Olds)

Visually discriminates according to size, color, and form
Sorts like objects according to size, color, and form
Uses pincher grasp to hold materials
Uses fingers to trace
Pairs colors-names primary colors-names secondary colors
Grades objects by varying dimensions (size, color, and form)
Names basic geometric shapes
Constructs complex shapes using simple shapes
Names basic geometric solids
Pairs like textures
Pairs like sounds
Play single bell tone by manipulation bell striker

2nd Year (4 Year Olds)

Names tertiary colors-shades colors
Names many irregular shapes
Names complex geometric solids
Corresponds planes to solids
Grades textures (roughest to smoothest)
Pairs and identifies 4 basic tastes
Grades sounds (loudest to softest)
Pairs bell tones C-G
Pairs smells
Discriminates stereognostically:
After feeling, but not looking at an object, names and describes the object in detail using "sensorial" language

3rd Year (5 Year Olds)

Grades bell tones C-G
Notation, reading, and composing using the bells.

Primary Math

The goal of the Montessori math curriculum is the acquisition of numerical concepts and the understanding of the processes involved in mathematical literacy. The math materials help establish a concept of numbers, logical thought processes, and problem solving skills. The child experiences, practices and perfects math skills through the use of organized, systematic, sequential exercises with concrete manipulative materials.

1st Year (3 Year olds)

Sorts and arranges concrete materials spatially according to graduated incremental lengths 1-10

Is introduced to and practices counting 1-10 with concrete materials

Is introduced to the numerals 1-10

Traces the 1-10 sandpaper numerals

Sorts and arranges numerals 1-10 in order

Associates numerals with quantities 1-10 (i.e. 1 to 1 correspondence)

Introduced to the decimal system materials, 1000, 100, 10, 1 (i.e. place values)

2nd Year (4 Year olds)

Adds and subtracts sensorially with numerals 1-10 and records operations

Explores the concepts of sets, zero, odd and even numbers, equivalencies, greater and" less than, and combinations of 10 as an introduction to addition

Counts, recognizes, associates, and constructs numerals 11-19

Practices writing numerals 1-19

Recognizes and orders the decimal system materials

Composes numbers with the decimal system materials

3rd Year (5 Year olds)

Adds and subtracts sensorially with numerals 11 and up and records operations

Writes numerals 1-100

Multiplies and divides sensorially and records operations

Practices counting, labeling, and recording with linear counting exercises using sensorial materials that teach the square and cube of numbers 1-10 (i.e. skip counting)

Recognizes constructs numbers with the decimal system materials

Performs static and dynamic operations with the decimal system materials (i.e. borrowing and carrying)

Familiar with names and values of a penny, nickel, and a dime

Familiar with time (1hour and 1/2 hours)

Primary Art

The Art area in the Montessori classroom is set up to help encourage observation, creativity and experimentation using different art media.

1st Year (3 Year Olds)

Snipping with scissors

Manipulates large paint brush through use of various media

Manipulates clay

Manipulates chalk, crayons, markers and pencils

Manipulates perforator

2nd Year (4 Year Olds)

Cutting

Manipulates small paint brush

Builds with clay

Uses chalk, crayons, markers and pencils within boundaries

Manipulates hole puncher

3rd Year (5 Year Olds)

Cutting on line

Extensions

Creates realistic forms

Creates realistic forms

Creates using all media

Primary Language

The language materials enable children to build oral and written language skills. The children learn phonics with visual/tactile/auditory experiences. With their knowledge of sounds, they move on to learning sight words, phonograms and grammar. The materials are designed to stimulate their interest and reinforce their sense of accomplishment.

1st Year (3 Year Olds)

Pre-language work includes patterning, spatial, and manipulative activities

Oral language is encouraged with emphasis on learning nomenclature, speaking in sentences and correct enunciation

Beginning oral presentation in a group setting

Sequencing pictures

Matching pictures

Use of materials that develop fine motor skills

Introduction to sounds and symbols for letters: tracing symbols

Recognizing name

Isolating beginning sounds in words

2nd Year (4 Year Olds)

Continued vocabulary work

Oral presentation to a group

Matching pictures and labels

Sequencing pictures and story telling

Continued work with materials that develop fine motor skills

Continued work with sounds and symbols

Writing letters; writing names; writing words

Continued work with isolating beginning sounds

Construction of short vowels, 3-letter phonetic words with manipulative materials

Reading phonetic words and rhyming lists

Reading sight words

Reading books with visual clues

Reading phonetic books

Isolating middle and end sounds in words

3rd Year (5 Year Olds)

Learning advanced nomenclature

Participation in group discussions

Reading to a group

Perfecting handwriting skills

Writing sentences

Continuing word construction with mixed short vowels, plurals, phonograms and long vowels

Reading more complex phonetic words; plural, phonograms and long vowels

Continued work with sight words

Reading phonetic books

Reading books with long vowels and blends

Writing words from dictation and writing creatively

Learning the functions of words

Letter naming and alphabetizing

Primary Cultural Studies

The Cultural area in the Montessori classroom helps put the child in touch with the world around him. The child is exposed to nature, geography, properties of the earth, geology, botany, zoology, anatomy, and various cultures. Through exploration of these materials the child begins to understand his special place in the universe.

Geography

1st Year (3 Year Olds)

Distinguishes differences between land, air and water

Distinguishes between continents and oceans

2nd Year (4 Year Olds)

Names continents

Names land and water forms

Matches flags of countries

3rd Year (5 Year Olds)

Distinguishes differences between countries, states, and territories

Names countries, states and territories

Defines and identifies land and water forms

Names flags of countries

Knowledge of culture and the needs of man

Botany and Zoology

1st Year (3 Year Olds)

Knowledge of living vs. non-living

Identifies similarities and differences between plants and animals

Identifies similarities and differences between vertebrate and invertebrate

Exposure to the similarities and differences between the five vertebrate animals

Matches parts of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals

Matches parts of tree, leaf, and flower

Matches different leaf shapes

2nd Year (4 Year Olds)

Names parts of the fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals

Names parts of the tree, leaf, and flower

Names parts of the human body

3rd Year (5 Year Olds)

Defines the parts and distinguishes the differences of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals

Defines the parts of tree, leaf, and flower

Names leaf shapes