

Reinforcing Montessori Learning At Home

We know that our children are busy using Montessori materials all day in their classrooms, but we wonder what we can do to reinforce learning at home. Below are some ideas that are appropriate for all ages:

Independence and Responsibility

1. Encourage your child to work independently (chores, homework, crafts, etc.). Help only when needed and *after* your child has attempted to do a task himself/herself.
2. Designate appropriate household chores (allowances could be used)
3. Establish routines (ex. free time - dinner - reading - bedtime)
4. Allow your child to take responsibility for belongings and his/her room
5. Model appropriate behavior (tone, body language, words, and actions).

Reading and Language Arts

1. Read, Read, Read! (Make reading a daily routine)
 - Read aloud to your child (choose a challenging book)
 - Ask your child to read to you (books should be on his/her level)
 - Model reading in front of your child (newspaper, magazines, books)
 - Schedule Family Reading Time (silent reading for older children)
2. Go to the library weekly. Make a day of the week Library Day!
3. Read recipes and cook with your child.
4. Ask your child questions before and while reading a book to help them think about reading. ("What do you think this story is about? What's happening in this picture? What do you think will happen next?")
5. Be patient while your child reads to you and keep reading fun! (encourage them to read as much as they can and set up a system if they are stuck on a word like "tapping").
6. Use a larger vocabulary when speaking to your child.
7. Practice sight words and handwriting at home.
8. Play Books on Tape/CD in the car.
9. Put on the captions if and when your child watches TV and movies (improves reading fluency).

Math

1. Encourage your child to explain their reasoning to you (show or tell) instead of accepting a one word answer. Ask "How do you know?"
2. Have your child help with chores.
(set the table -"get just enough plates for everyone who is eating,"
sort laundry, and sort silverware and dishes)
3. Help your child tell time (using different clocks)
4. Give opportunities to count money (at store, empty change jars)
5. Cook with your child (real life measurement & fractions)-use a timer!
6. Practice math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division)
You can do this everywhere-aloud in the car, using child-made or store bought flash cards)

Science and Social Studies (Cultural Studies in Montessori terminology)

1. Read age-appropriate non-fiction books (solar system, fossils, sharks, Venus fly-traps, Egypt, helicopters, Mozart, etc.) Read books like these aloud if they are above your child's reading level.
2. Encourage your child to research his or her interests and to show you their understanding through drawings, diagrams, and discussions.
3. Help your child research the state/city/town or country you are planning to visit on a family trip (weather/historical facts, activities).
4. Ask your child to write letters/postcards to relatives or fiends in other parts of the country and ask questions about where they live
5. Visit websites like www.enchantedlearning.com
6. Subscribe to age-appropriate nature, wildlife, or current event magazines (TIME for Kids, National Geographic, etc.)

*Be sure to attend "**Watch Me Work Night**"

Thursday, November 20 5:30-6:30 p.m.

*Be sure to check out the book At Home with Montessori

More Montessori Home Ideas will be given at the upcoming meetings:

- Tuesday, January 13, 2009 5:00-6:00 Topic: Discipline
- Tuesday, February 10, 2009 5:00-6:00 Topic: Stand.Testing