



AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY

education that transforms lives

Early Childhood Suggested Materials List

The following lists are a guideline to assist teachers in equipping the classrooms of materials that should be available at each level. There should be a representative variety of activities at various levels of difficulty for each curriculum area to serve the age span. Please note that this is just one part of the *physical* design of a Montessori environment.

In addition to the materials, teachers need to take into account other physical features such as the height of the shelves in comparison to the average eye level of the students in each level, the selection and placement of items on walls, water source, plants, lighting, placement of noisier areas (e.g., blocks, play), using color to attract the students to materials on the shelves, using neutral colors on the walls so that it doesn't detract from the materials on the shelves.

In addition to the physical design, teachers must also pay attention to the social, emotional, cognitive and psychological designs. In other words, elements such as each teacher's presentation of self (e.g., attire, facial expression), the quality of each teacher's interaction and connection with the students, the body language of the teachers, the actions and reactions of teachers, teachers' speech (e.g., Do the teachers' speech promote critical thinking, problem solving, self-confidence and self-esteem?), teachers' modeling of the habits of mind, etc.

EARLY CHILDHOOD: 2.5 to 3+ Years Old (in addition to above)			
SENSORIMOTOR			
<i>Visual</i>	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	SHARED
Pink Tower	X		
Brown Stairs	X		
Red Rods		X	
Cylinder Blocks	X		
Geometric Solids (natural wood -- not colored) (beginning ones only)	X		
Geometric Cabinet Demonstration Tray		X	
Color Tablets II		X	
LANGUAGE: Introduction to Language in print	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	SHARED
Labels of Objects in the Environment	X		
Vocabulary Cards with Labels	X		
Sandpaper Letters	X		
Moveable Alphabet	X		
MATH: Introduction to Digital System (0-9, 10)	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	SHARED
Sandpaper Numerals	X		
Red and Blue Rods and Numerals		X	
Spindle Box	X		
Memory Game	X		

EARLY CHILDHOOD 2.5 to 6 years			
PRACTICAL LIFE (Must be a variety of activities)	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	SHARED
Hand Washing Materials	X		
Squeezing a Sponge	X		
Table Washing	X		
Shell/Rock Scrubbing	X		
Bubble Making		X	
Sweeping (Floor)	X		
Sweeping (Table)	X		
Pouring Beans	X		
Pouring Grains	X		
Pouring Water	X		
Spooning Activities	X		
Scooping Activities	X		
Tong Activities	X		
Sorting by Size	X		
Sorting by Color	X		
Sorting by Objects	X		
Food Preparation	X		
Sewing	X		
Serving Snack	X		
6 - 8 Dressing Frames	X		
Grace and Courtesy	X		
Cutting (With Sequence of Difficulty)	X		
Pasting/Gluing	X		
Folding	X		
Clothes Pins		X	
Walking on the Line	X		
Silence Game	X		
Flower Arranging		X	
Ironing		X	
Weaving		X	
Large motor i.e. woodworking		X	

EARLY CHILDHOOD 2.5 to 6 years			
SENSORIAL	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	SHARED
Knobbed Cylinders/All 4	X		
Pink Tower	X		
Broad Stair	X		
Long Rods	X		
Color Tablet Box I	X		
Color Tablet Box II	X		
Color Tablet Box III	X		
Triangle Box	X		
Sm. Hexagon Box	X		
Large Hexagon Box	X		
Rectangle Box	X		
Knobless Cylinders/All 4	X		
Touch Boards	X		
Touch Tablets	X		
Sound Cylinders	X		
Geometric Solids	X		
Geometric Cabinet (Trays and Cards)	X		
Touch Fabrics	X		
Bells/Tone Bars		X	X
Stereognostic Exercises	X		
Mystery Bag	X		
Smelling Exercise	X		
Tasting Exercise		X	
Binomial Cube	X		
Trinomial Cube	X		
Baric Tablets	X		

EARLY CHILDHOOD: 2.5 to 6 Years			
LANGUAGE	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	SHARED
Metal Insets	X		
Sandpaper Letters	X		
Moveable Alphabet	X		
Comprehensive Reading Plan	X		
Vocabulary Activities	X		
Reading Readiness Activities	X		
Categories	X		
Patterns	X		
Relationships	X		
Sequencing	X		
Objects/Movable Alphabet	X		
Picture/Moveable Alphabet	X		
Phonogram Exercises	X		
Composing Words	X		
Non-Phonetic Words	X		
Phonetic Reading Books	X		
Command Cards	X		
Grammar	X		
Nouns	X		
Adjectives	X		
Verbs	X		
Article	X		
Comprehensive Writing Plan		X	
Sand Tray		X	
Letter Tracing	X		
Writing Sequence	X		
Non-phonetic reading books		X	
Poetry		X	
Mini environments e.g. farm/phonetic		X	
Mini environments e.g. farm/non-phonetic		X	
Farm or equivalent for intro to grammar		X	
Easy Readers		X	

EARLY CHILDHOOD: 2.5 to 6 Years			
MATH	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	SHARED
Number Rods and Numerals	X		
Sandpaper Numerals	X		
Spindle Boxes	X		
Cards and Counters	X		
Memory Game	X		
Golden Bead Material	X		
Presentation Tray	X		
Stamp Game	X		
Bead Frame	X		X
Dot Game		X	X
Ten Boards	X		
Teen Boards	X		
Hundred Board	X		
Bead Cabinet & Arrows	X		X
Addition			
Short Bead Stair	X		
Addition Strip Board	X		
Positive Snake Game	X		
Addition Charts	X		
Subtraction Strip Board	X		
Subtraction Charts	X		
Subtraction Snake Game		X	
Multiplication			
Short Bead Stair Exercises	X		
Multiplication Board	X		
Multiplication Charts	X		
Division			
Division Board with One Divisor	X		
Division Charts		X	
Fractions			
Fraction Skittles		X	
Fraction Insets		X	X
Money - coin recognition		X	
Money Activities		X	

EARLY CHILDHOOD: 2.5 to 6 Years			
CULTURAL AREAS	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	SHARED
Globes	X		
Land Forms	X		
Geography Maps			
Hemisphere Map	X		
North America	X		
United States	X		
Europe	X		
South America	X		
Asia	X		
Africa	X		
Antarctica		X	
Australia	X		
Cultural Geography	X		
Directions - North, South, E, W		X	
History	X		
Zoology	X		
Botany	X		
Leaf Cabinet		X	
Science Activities	X		
plant puzzles	X		
Botany 3-parts cards	X		
Animal puzzles	X		
Animal 3-part cards (nomenclature)	X		
Outdoor Environmental Activities	X		
Additional Materials	X		
Art Materials (various mediums and techniques)	X		
Library (Book) Area	X		
Musical Instruments	X		X
History Activities		X	
Nomenclature Cards (culture)		X	
Study of Clocks, Learning Time		X	
Time Activities		X	
Timeline of a Child's Life		X	
Timeline of a Day		X	
Calendars		X	
Peace Education Materials		X	