



# AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY

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## Infant and Toddler 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.

INFANT: 1 to 18 Months			
PRACTICAL LIFE: As a help in the development toward coordination, concentration, order and independence.			
<i>Care of the Person</i>	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	SHARED
Bathing	X		
Changing Diaper, Pants, Dressing-Undressing	X		
Food Prep			
Use of Handkerchief/Tissue		X	
Use of Toilet	X		
Washing Hands	X		
Washing Face	X		

<b>INFANT: 1 to 18 Months</b>			
<b>Care of the Environment</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Cleaning up	X		
Dusting	X		
Drying Spilled Water	X		
Feeding the Baby			
Picking up Dirt, Sand, Mulch	X		
Self Feeding: Use of Cup and Spoon	X		
Setting the Table	X		
Serving	X		
Watering Plants	X		
<b>Grace and Courtesy</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Greeting and Saying Goodbye	X		
Gentle Touch with Others	X		
Respecting Others Work and Space	X		
<b>MOVEMENT: As a help in the development of balance and physical control</b>			
<b>Gross Motor</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Cloth Ball (balls are essential but necessarily of cloth)	X		
Blocks	X		
Balls of Many Textures and Sizes	X		
Bar or Furniture	X		
Differing levels of floor space (stair could be too restrictive for some environments)		X	
Incline Plane (share if in common area)			X
Maximum Effort Activity	X		
Pull and Push Toys	X		
Quilt and Mirrors (long, horizontal)	X		
Slide (share if in common area)	X		X
Stair with Rails (share if in common area)	X		X
Walks	X		
Wheelbarrow (share if in common area)	X		X
<b>Fine Motor</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Box with Ball	X		
Geometric Figure Box	X		
Nesting Objects	X		
Objects in a Container	X		
Peg Block (Single knobbed)	X		
Rhymes and Songs with Actions	X		
Specialized infant materials (e.g., Scaleri, Carello)		X	
Woolen Ball (Squish Ball); Ribbon and Bell; Color Sphere	X		

<b>Infant: 1 to 18 Months</b>			
<b>SENSORIMOTOR:</b> As a help in the development of discrimination of size, shape, color, sound.			
<b>Visual</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Black and White Mobile	X		
Color Mobile	X		
Shape Mobile	X		
Shape Sorting Posting Box	X		
<b>Auditory</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Rattles	X		
Bell	X		
Drum	X		
Music Box	X		
Sound Mobile	X		
Tape Recorder and Tapes (CD Player and CDs)	X		
Tapes/DC's of Nature Sounds		X	
<b>LANGUAGE:</b> As a help in the development of vocabulary and verbal communication			
1-2 piece Puzzles		X	
Books	X		
Bead Maze (Roller Coaster)		X	
Conversations: Talking to the Baby	X		
Naming Objects in the Environment	X		
Pictures on wall of real activities for conversation, placed low so babies can see them.	X		
Rhymes and Songs with Actions	X		
Sign Language		X	
Vocabulary Cards	X		
<b>ART:</b> As a help in the development of creativity and expression			
Music: Songs with Actions	X		
Music: Cultural		X	
Dance: Free Movement with Rhythm	X		
<b>PRACTICAL LIFE: <i>Care of the Person</i></b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Brushing Teeth		X	
Combing Hair	X		
Dressing Frames (zipper, button, snap, buckle)	X		
Dressing and Undressing	X		
Bathing the Doll	X		
Object Washing (e.g. shell)		X	
Polishing Shoes (possible concern with polish)		X	
Putting Clothes Away	X		
Taking off and Putting on a Coat	X		
Taking off and Putting on Shoes		X	
Using a Handkerchief/Tissue	X		
Using the Toilet	X		
Washing Hands	X		

<b>TODDLER: 18 – 36 Months</b>			
<b><i>Care of the Environment</i></b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Dusting	X		
Feeding Pets	X		
Flower Arranging	X		
Folding	X		
Polishing Metal (possible concern with polish in multi-age group)		X	
Raking Leaves		X	
Shoveling Snow		X	
Sowing Seeds	X		
Sweeping, Mopping and Picking up Dirt	X		
Washing Clothes (simplify to clothesline and hanging clothes)		X	
Washing Plant Leaves		X	
Washing a Table	X		
Watering Plants	X		
Waxing a Table		X	
<b><i>Food Preparation and Serving</i></b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Pouring Water	X		
Spreading Crackers	X		
Cutting Fruits/Cheeses	X		
Making Juice		X	
Setting the Table	X		
Serving Others		X	
Clearing the Table	X		
Washing Dishes	X		
<b>MOVEMENT</b>			
<b><i>Gross Motor</i></b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Long Walks	X		
Straight Line	X		
Balance Beam (share if in common area)	X		X
Bar from which to Hang		X	
Swing – outdoor (share if in common area)	X		X
Sandbox	X		
Objects to Climb Over	X		
Tunnel to Climb Through (share if in common area)	X		X
Rocking Horse/Boat/Chair (shared if in common area)	X		X
Vestibular Board		X	

TODDLER: 18 – 36 Months			
<b>Gross Motor</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Riding Toys (tricycles) (share if in common area)		X	X
Carrying and Pushing Heavy Objects		X	
<b>Fine Motor</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Nesting Objects	X		
Vertical Ring Post	X		
Horizontal Ring Post	X		
Bead Stringing (Large bead stringing, string must be stiff)	X		
Opening and Closing Containers	X		
Nuts and Bolts	X		
Hammering	X		
Spooning	X		
Dry Pouring	X		
Liquid Pouring	X		
Pouring with a Funnel	X		
Transferring Water with Eyedropper		X	
Pompom Push	X		
Toddler Drawer	X		
Tonging		X	
<b>SENSORIMOTOR</b>			
<b>Visual</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Stacking/Nesting Boxes	X		
Posting Boxes	X		
Simple Cylinder Block	X		
Geometric Shape Box	X		
Puzzles (including a geometric shape puzzle)	X		
Sorting	X		
Color/Matching	X		
<b>Auditory</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Music	X		
Sounds in the Environment	X		
Voice: Tone and Volume	X		
Simple Sound Matching (4 Pairs)	X		
Radio with Earphones	X		
Music Box		X	
<b>Tactile</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Mystery Bag	X		
Geometric Solids (natural wood – not colored) (beginning ones only)	X		

<b>TODDLER: 18 – 36 Months</b>			
Texture and Temperature in the Environment	X		
Rough and Smooth Boards	X		
<b><i>Smell and Taste</i></b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
In Food and Flowers	X		
In Nature: Rain, Dirt, awareness of smells in the environment		X	
Simple Smelling Jars	X		
Smell to Picture Match		X	
<b><i>Eye-Hand Coordination</i></b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>SHARED</b>
Paper Tearing	X		
Paper Cutting	X		
Pasting	X		
Sewing Cards	X		
Peg Boards	X		
Bead Stringing	X		
Play Dough	X		
Chalkboard	X		
Painting	X		
Crayons	X		
Hammering	X		
Tracing Letters/Numbers	X		
<b>LANGUAGE</b>			
Singing/Finger Plays	X		
Dialogues	X		
Objects in the Environment: 3 Period Lesson	X		
Mystery Bag	X		
Classified Objects	X		
Vocabulary Cards	X		
Matching Objects with Cards	X		
Books (objects, actions, stories)	X		
Farm	X		
Telephone	X		
Picture to Picture Match	X		
Object to Object Match	X		
Objects for "I Spy"	X		