

American Montessori Society - Teacher Education

CORE MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

The intent of this checklist is to provide Montessori teacher education programs with a list of traditional developmentally appropriate activities that Montessori teachers of children ages 2 1/2 through 6 years are generally expected to be able to present in their classrooms. This list is comprehensive but not exclusive or prescriptive and teacher education program instructors may also present other activities.

** Starred items indicate additional suggested materials or activities that may not be available at a school site, but will contribute to a new teacher's understanding of Montessori curriculum.*

Practical Life	
	Refinement of Movement
	Walking on a Line (incl. carrying objects while walking)
	Silence Games
	Sequence of Scooping/Spooning activities
	Sequence of Squeezing activities (e.g. sponge/baster/clothespins/tongs/tweezers)
	Sequence of Threading activities
	Sequence of Twisting activities (bottles & caps, nuts & bolts, etc.)
	Sequence of Pouring activities (dry / water / various size, shape containers / with tools)
	Sequence of Folding activities
	Care of Environment
	Use of rugs/mats (e.g. rolling, carrying, avoid walking on work rugs)
	Use of child size furniture (e.g. moving tables and chairs)
	Sweeping and dusting (e.g. broom, dustpan & brush, table brush & pan, duster)
	Mopping the floor (e.g. mop and bucket)
	Scrubbing surfaces (e.g. table / chair / cloths)
	Washing windows, using squeegee
	Washing dishes
	Polishing e.g. (mirror/wood/metal)
	Sequence of sewing activities (e.g. sewing on a button)
	Arranging flowers
	Caring for plants (watering / polishing leaves)
	<i>*Caring for small animals (providing food and water)</i>
	<i>* Sequence of carpentry activities (Use of vises/ clamps / hand saw/ pliers / level/ goggles / gloves / screwdriver & screws/ hand drill / hammer / nails / wood / sandpaper)</i>
	<i>* Caring for the outdoor environment (e.g. brooms, rakes, garden tools)</i>
	<i>*Gardening (Sowing seeds, weeding, harvesting)</i>
	Grace and Courtesy
	Greetings and introductions
	Respectful and polite conversations (e.g. interruptions, apologies, requests)
	Manners for meals and group settings
	Classroom procedures

Practical Life	
	Personal Care and Health
	Storing personal clothing and belongings (e.g. cubbies, hooks, coat hangers)
	Dressing Frames – Buttons, zipper, buckles, lacing, bow-tying
	Dressing and Undressing (e.g. putting on jacket and shoes)
	Cleaning and polishing shoes
	Nose-blowing (tissue / mirror)
	Toileting and use of the bathroom facilities
	Hand-washing (e.g. table set up w/large bowl & pitcher, etc., and use of sink with faucet)
	<i>* Individual personal care items (e.g. combs, toothbrushes)</i>
	Food Preparation
	Washing fruits and vegetables
	Cutting fruits, vegetables, cheese, eggs, etc.
	Preparing drinks (juice, tea, etc.)
	Serving food and drinks
	<i>*Cooking and baking activities</i>

Sensorial	
	Cylinder Blocks (Knobbed Cylinders) - 4 blocks
	Tower of Cubes (Pink Tower)
	Broad Stair (Brown Stair)
	Long Rods (Red Rods)
	Knobless Cylinders - 4 boxes
	Color Tablets - Box I
	Color Tablets - Box II
	Color Tablets - Box III
	Geometric Cabinet w/ Demonstration Tray and 3 sets of cards
	Geometric Solids and Bases
	Constructive Triangles (5 boxes): Triangle Box, Large Hexagon Box, Small Hexagon Box, Rectangle Box, Blue Triangles Box
	Binomial Cube
	Trinomial Cube
	Sound Cylinders (Sound Boxes)
	Montessori Bells Set
	Rough and Smooth Boards - 2 or 3 boards
	Touch Tablets (Rough & Smooth Tablets for matching and grading)
	Fabric Matching
	Mystery Bag (Stereognostic)
	Baric Tablets (Weight)
	Thermic Tablets

	Sensorial
	Thermic Bottles
	Smelling Jars
	* <i>Tasting Activities</i>
	* <i>Sensorial Vocabulary Labels (names of colors, shapes, sizes, etc.)</i>

	Math
	Number Rods (Red and Blue Rods) and Numerals
	Sandpaper Numerals
	Spindle Boxes
	Cards and Counters (Numerals and Counters)
	Memory Game
	Intro to Decimal Quantity (One Tray) and Symbol
	Function of the Decimal System (Nine Tray)
	Golden Bead Material for Addition, Multiplication, Subtraction, Division (Sufficient for 45 layout)
	Large Decimal Numeral Cards (1 set)
	Small Decimal Numeral cards (3 sets)
	Short Bead Stair
	Teen Boards and Beads (Séguin Board I)
	Tens Boards and Beads (Séguin Board II)
	Hundred Board
	Short Bead Chains w/ squares and numerals (Square Chains)
	Long Bead Chains w/ cubes and numerals (Cube Chains)
	Addition Snake Game
	Addition Strip Board and Tables
	Multiplication Bead Bars
	Multiplication Board and Tables
	Subtraction Snake Game
	Subtraction Strip Board and Tables
	Addition Finger Charts and Box of Equations
	Multiplication Finger Charts and Box of Equations
	Subtraction Finger Charts and Box of Equations
	Unit Division Board and Box of Equations
	Division Finger Charts
	Fraction Circles (Metal Fraction Insets)

	Language
	Child library w/ fiction and non-fiction picture books
	Oral language games, storytelling, listening, self-expression, conversations, etc.
	Sensorial oral vocabulary language games
	Phonemic awareness games (e.g. I-Spy)
	Oral vocabulary enrichment activities (reflecting cultures of the children)
	Picture/Object Matching and/or Picture/Picture Matching

	Language
	Sorting objects and/or pictures into categories
	Sandpaper Letters (Lower case – cursive or print)
	Double Sandpaper Letters (English phonograms)
	Sand Tray
	<i>*Upper case Sandpaper Letters (cursive or print)</i>
	Large Movable Alphabets (several)
	Metal Insets w/ pencils, pencil holders, trays, paper
	Small chalkboards for handwriting & supplies (<i>*white boards</i>)
	<i>* Large Name Card for each child in the class</i>
	<i>*Activities for stroke and placement of letters</i>
	<i>*Activities for handwriting letters and words</i>
	Object Box I: Introduction to reading short vowel phonetic words
	Object Box II: Introduction to reading words w/ phonograms (for English)
	Environment Label cards
	Action Command Cards
	Decoding short vowel words (e.g. flash cards, picture/word booklet, picture cards with labels)
	<i>*Simple phonetic reading such as a phonics-based series of reading books</i>
	Puzzle Words (Sight Words)
	Phonogram reading cards and booklets (for English)
	Silent ‘e’ cards (for English)
	<i>* Small printed alphabets in two colors for use with phonogram materials</i>
	Three-Part Cards – (organized by category) for blending and fluency
	Mini Environment (e.g. Farm) for introduction to parts of speech
	Grammar Symbols
	Function of Words - introductory lessons
	Variety of reading material for emerging fluent / beginning readers (fiction and non-fiction)
	<i>*Activities to encourage written self-expression and simple research</i>

	Cultural (Geography, History, Natural and Physical Sciences)
	Geography
	Land/Air/Water – 3 containers
	Land and Water Form Trays w/ Pitcher
	Three-Part Cards and Definitions for Land and Water Forms
	Globe of Land and Water (Sandpaper Globe)
	Globe of the Continents (Colored Globe)
	<i>*Flattened Globe Demonstration</i>
	Puzzle Map - World Parts (Continents) + Control map, and Circle for tracing
	Puzzle Map – North America + Control map
	Puzzle Map – South America + Control map
	Puzzle Map – Europe + Control map
	Puzzle Map – Asia + Control map

	Cultural (Geography, History, Natural and Physical Sciences)
	Puzzle Map – Africa + Control map
	Puzzle Map – Australasia (Oceania) + Control map
	Puzzle Map – Children’s home country (e.g. USA, Mexico, Canada, Japan, China) + Control map
	Tools and supplies for reproducing maps and flags
	Continent Folders / baskets (objects / pictures representing the continent/country)
	<i>*Animals of the continents</i>
	Flags of a variety of countries
	<i>*Map of Oceans</i>
	<i>*Introduction to Solar System (Sun and Planets)</i>
	Science
	Living/Non-Living Classification
	Vertebrate/Invertebrate Classification
	Animal/Plant Classification
	<i>*Classified Picture Cards – Animals (different characteristics e.g. hooves, horns, zoo, domestic)</i>
	<i>*Classified Picture Cards – Plants (different characteristics)</i>
	<i>*Puzzles for parts of mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish</i>
	Parts of a Mammal (three-part cards & definitions)
	Parts of a Bird (three-part cards & definitions)
	Parts of a Reptile (three-part cards & definitions)
	Parts of an Amphibian (three-part cards & definitions)
	Parts of a Fish (three-part cards & definition materials)
	<i>*Parts of an Insect (three-part cards & definitions)</i>
	Botany Cabinet and Cards (Leaf shapes)
	Parts of a Tree (three-part cards & definitions)
	Parts of a Flower (three-part cards & definitions)
	Parts of a Leaf (three-part cards & definitions)
	Parts of Root (three-part cards & definitions)
	<i>*Life cycles – plants / animals</i>
	<i>*Plant experiments</i>
	<i>*Rocks / minerals / shells</i>
	Physical Science
	<i>*Sink or Float activity</i>
	<i>*Magnetic or Non-magnetic activity</i>
	<i>*Experiments for physical science discovery</i>
	<i>* Simple machines</i>

	History
	Calendar Activities (e.g. day / date / month etc.)
	Months of the Year cards (used for child's birthday celebrations)
	Materials for seasons (e.g. climate / weather / clothing / food / activities / change in foliage)
	* <i>Timer Devices (hourglass / variety of clocks / variety of calendars / sundial)</i>
	* <i>Timeline of child's day</i>
	* <i>Timeline of child's birthdays</i>
	* <i>Timeline of child to adult</i>
	* <i>Artifacts from different eras (e.g. toys / transportation / technology / clothing)</i>

	Creative Arts
	Arts and Crafts
	Clay & cutting tools
	Variety of Tools for Drawing (e.g. pencils, crayons, brushes, pastels, chalk)
	Varied types of paper (colors, sizes, textures)
	Scissors & materials for cutting (also tearing)
	Glue for collage
	Painting supplies (easel / tempera paint / water colors)
	Reproductions of famous artworks to introduce artists and art from varied cultures
	Music & Dance
	Source for recorded music
	Rhythm Instruments (e.g. triangle, tambourine, maracas, cymbals, shakers, sticks, drums, etc.)
	* <i>Models of musical instruments for matching and naming</i>
	* <i>Pictures of composers and sample of compositions from varied cultures</i>
	* <i>Materials for dancing (e.g. ribbons and scarves)</i>