

## IMPORTANCE OF A PREPARED ENVIRONMENT IN MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

To fully harness the potential of a child's Absorbent Mind, Montessori education places great emphasis on creating a purposefully designed Prepared Environment. While the Absorbent Mind has an extraordinary ability to take in information, children cannot absorb what is absent or inaccessible in their surroundings. For this reason, Dr. Montessori emphasized the importance of providing a Prepared Environment that meets the child's developmental needs.

The Prepared Environment is meticulously organized and equipped with Montessori Materials—didactic tools specifically designed to align with the child's developmental stages and Sensitive Periods. These materials enable children to engage in hands-on learning, encouraging independence and fostering self-discovery through sensory exploration. In this way, the Prepared Environment becomes not just a physical space but a catalyst for holistic growth and learning.

### PRACTICAL LIFE AREA

Activities of Practical Life involve motor tasks with practical, daily goals, such as cleaning a table, transferring objects, pouring liquids, polishing shoes, etc. Beyond helping children master everyday tasks, Practical Life activities aim to achieve the following: (OCCI).

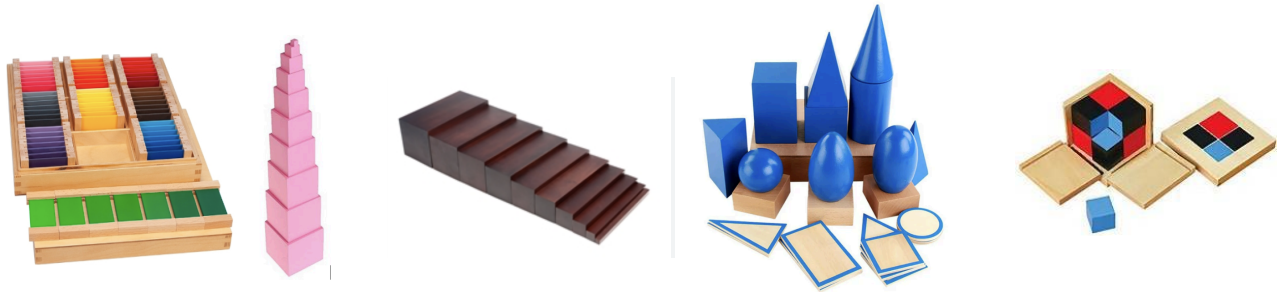
1. Develop their sense of **O**rders.  
(Ex. Every material has a designated spot for it, that the child knows, and shelves are organized and decluttered)
2. Develop Control of movement and hand-eye **C**oordination.  
(Ex. When the child is pouring water, they cannot measure the distance from the cup.)
3. Improve their ability to **C**oncentrate.
4. Increase their **I**ndependence.



### SENSORIAL AREA

Dr. Montessori designed Sensory Materials that provide concrete examples of abstract concepts. Montessori called it the "Materialized Abstraction." The child can better understand abstract impressions by manipulating tangible materials. The Montessori Sensorial Materials are designed to aid in refining the following senses:

Visual (sight), Tactile (touch), Auditory (hearing), Olfactory (smell), Gustatory (taste), Thermic (temperature), Baric (weights), and Stereognostic (tactile and muscular exploration without using sight, often practiced blindfolded)



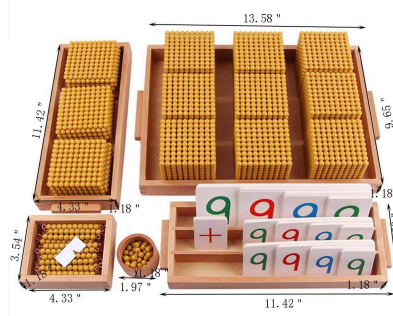
## MONTESSORI MATHEMATICS AREA

In Montessori’s hands-on approach to Mathematics education, children are given ample time to explore math concepts through seeing, hearing, touching, and manipulating the carefully designed Montessori Math Materials. As the saying goes, “*NOTHING IN MY HANDS, NOTHING IN MY BRAIN,*” emphasizing the importance of tactile, hands-on learning in building mathematical understanding.

For instance, to explore quantities from 1 to 10, children work with materials such as the Number Rods, Spindle Boxes, Numbers and Counters, Golden Beads, and Short Bead Stairs. Through these activities, the child’s knowledge is developed incrementally using muscular movements, tactile experiences, and sensorial interactions, allowing them to internalize abstract math concepts effectively.



The decimal system, enhanced by color-coded values, enables children to perform operations on large quantities with ease. For example, a child who learns to add  $2 + 3 = 5$  can seamlessly progress to adding two thousand + three thousand = five thousand.

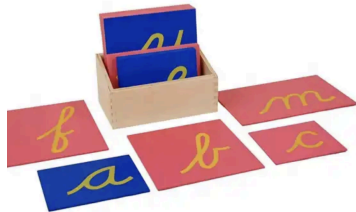


m-45 3000 Cards

## LANGUAGE AREA

Dr. Montessori developed the early childhood language curriculum with a variety of engaging, hands-on activities designed to build a strong foundation in language development. One of the key materials is the Sound Pouch, which contains small objects to help children learn each phonetic sound. In Montessori education, children learn letters by their phonetic sounds rather than their alphabetic names. For example, the child learns the letter "h" by its sound /huh/, rather than by its name, /aitch/.

The Sandpaper Letters are another essential tool, helping children associate sounds with symbols (phoneme-grapheme relationships) through a multi-sensory approach involving visual, tactile, and auditory experiences. Following this, the Movable Alphabet—a set of wooden letters with vowels in blue and consonants in red—becomes a favorite material for children. It enables them to form words and sentences, allowing them to express their thoughts even before developing the fine motor skills required for pencil writing.



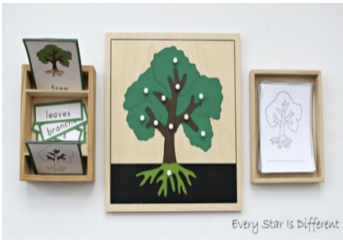
After extensive practice "writing" their ideas using the Movable Alphabet, children naturally develop an interest in reading. The reading curriculum progresses systematically through the Pink Reading Series, which focuses on consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words; the Blue Reading Series, which introduces consonant blends such as "sh," "fl," and "cr" (CCVC words); and the Green Reading Series, which explores long vowel patterns like "ay," "ai," and "a-e." This gradual and engaging process nurtures the development of spontaneous and independent reading, laying a strong foundation for lifelong literacy.

## CULTURE AREA

Montessori Culture encompasses Dr. Montessori believed that all children are natural scientists, driven by a genuine curiosity to understand the world around them, as well as their own place within it. The Montessori Culture education nurtures this innate curiosity by supporting children's quest for knowledge about the world and themselves.

Montessori Culture encompasses tangible real Materials that help the child develop a concrete understanding of Geography, History, Fine Arts, Zoology, Botany, and Science Materials. These materials provide hands-on, sensory-rich experiences that make

abstract concepts tangible and accessible, ensuring that children develop a deep, meaningful connection to the subjects they explore.



## **NATURE TABLE, A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND THE NATURE WORLD**

Dr. Montessori strongly believed that exposing children to nature heightens their awareness of the interdependence and connectedness of all living things. Through this understanding, children develop a deep respect for the integrity of all life, fostering a peaceful and harmonious outlook. Montessori referred to this holistic approach as "Cosmic Education."

To support this philosophy, the CMS Montessori curriculum prioritizes opportunities for children to experience and connect with nature. In addition to outdoor activities, the classroom includes a unique feature called the Nature Table, which serves as a bridge between the indoor learning environment and the natural world.

The Nature Table is adorned with a variety of natural objects, such as pine cones, feathers, stones, shells, flowers, leaves, twigs, empty bird nests, etc. It also provides tools for exploration and investigation, including magnifying glasses, microscopes, tweezers, and other hands-on resources. To deepen their understanding, children can access books featuring stunning real-life photographs and informative content related to the natural world. This thoughtfully curated space inspires curiosity, discovery, and a lasting appreciation for nature.

