

SETTING UP THE MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION

"The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences" - Dr. Maria Montessori

HOW IS THE ENVIRONMENT SETTING CHILDREN UP FOR SUCCESS?



Layout

How have you made the layout accessible for all children (and their equipment) to engage in all areas of the classroom?

How does the layout enhance the functionality and prevent overcrowding of areas?

Is there enough space for floor work and group work?

Is the layout discouraging running and rough play?

What spaces exist for children to regulate and relax?

(e.g. Book area, cozy area)



Communication

How does the environment support different ways of communication? What visuals are available to support interactions, routines and transitions? Are auditory and visual cues available?



Practical Life

What opportunities exist for children to practice all areas of practical life (Care of the person, Care of the environment, Care of animals, Control of movement, Grace and courtesy) in real life throughout the day?

What adaptations can be made to accommodate different abilities? e.g., Different utensils to meet a need of a child who has difficulties with gripping, left-handed and right-handed scissors, etc.



Sensory

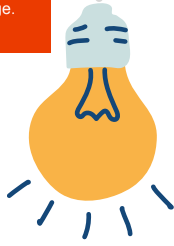
Are there activities to support all senses including gustatorial, olfactory, vestibular, and proprioceptive senses indoors and outdoors? (See the additional resources for more information)



Math

How do you use language to promote math concepts in conversations throughout the day? i.e., words to compare and describe quantity, height, weight, temperature, patterns and relationships, etc.

Are the materials meeting the developmental level of children currently in the classroom?



Culture

Are there a variety of materials for hands-on discovery and exploration (e.g., Science experiments)?

Do the materials reflect the current interests of children?



Books & Literacy

Are books and language materials rotated regularly?

Do the books provided relate to current classroom activities and interests?



Music & Movement

When is music and movement available? (i.e., as a free choice and group time activity)



Free Expression

How is free expression encouraged in all areas of the classroom and outdoors?

Is there a wide variety of materials to support creative expression? (i.e., 3D materials, clay, playdough, wood, crayons, water colours etc.)

“A CHILD WHO HAS BECOME MASTER OF HIS ACTS THROUGH LONG AND REPEATED EXERCISES, AND WHO HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE PLEASANT AND INTERESTING ACTIVITIES IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN ENGAGED, IS A CHILD FILLED WITH HEALTH AND JOY AND REMARKABLE FOR HIS CALMNESS AND DISCIPLINE”

DR. MARIA MONTESSORI

BORROW MONTESSORI RESOURCE BINS FROM THE RESOURCE LIBRARY!



EMOTION PUPPETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE! BOOK AN APPOINTMENT HERE!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Maria Montessori’s Education of the Inquisitive Mind](#)
[Separating Chemicals](#)

[Maria Montessori’s Education of the Creative Mind](#)
[Not from Planet Earth Game](#)

[Maria Montessori’s Education of the Creative Mind](#)
[Salt Art](#)

[Sensory & Beyond - ConnectAbility](#)



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