

EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM AREAS

There are four main curricular areas in the Montessori Early Childhood classroom: Practical Life, Sensorial, Math, and Language.

PRACTICAL LIFE

In Practical Life the child practices control of movement, care of self, care of the environment, and grace and courtesy. Works in this area provide children the chance to exercise and refine their movements and gain competency in life skills needed both inside and outside of the classroom. Practical Life activities help children build a foundation for a lifetime of intellectual independence and success.

SENSORIAL

The overarching purpose of the Sensorial area is to enable children to make judgments and comparisons and refine these skills through practice. Materials in the Sensorial area serve diverse purposes, ranging from the refinement of the five senses to introducing fundamental Mathematical concepts.

LANGUAGE

There are several principles that govern the Language area of the classroom. Included among these principles are: 1) Children between the ages of birth and six years of age possess an absorbent mind and 2) Children of this age are in a sensitive period for acquiring language. Thus, an environment is presented that is enriched with literature and vocabulary and the skills of reading and writing are taught through the use of phonemic awareness.

MATH

Materials in the Math area of the classroom are presented sequentially, following a natural progression from concrete to abstract. The materials

are hands-on and experiential and the use of the manipulative materials formulates a deep understanding of mathematical ideas.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

In addition to the four main curricular areas, students explore culture and science, art, music, and world studies. Children learn about our world through puzzle maps, stories, and cultural presentations. Families and friends are invited to bring activities from their cultures into the classroom. The outdoor classroom and garden offer hands-on experience with earth science, botany and zoology. Cross-curricular art projects invite creativity and self-expression. Musical instruction includes Orff-Kodaly activities with rhythm and melodies, singing and movement.