

Montessori Lessons for the Young Child at Home

Listed below are suggestions for parents of young children, with some hints about a good way to “present the lesson.”

- Turning tap water on (and off!)
- Scrubbing sinks:
 - Materials: a sponge 2” x 3”, a small can of cleanser with only one hole uncovered. (CAUTION: The cleanser should be stored out of child’s reach).
 - In the first stage, the adult applies the cleanser; the child turns on the tap and scrubs the sink with a sponge.
 - Later, the child applies the cleanser under adult supervision and the carries out the activity as above.
- Helping Unload Groceries:
 - Put bags on floor. Let children hand you things and put things away at their own level. (CAUTION: some cans are too large to be lifted safely by a child.)
- Dusting
 - Materials: Pretty flannel cloths cut 6” x 6,” a small baby’s hairbrush, some place to put the dirty cloths.
 - Call the child’s attention to the dust. Ask her if she would like to be a helper. Show her how to wrap the cloth around her fingers and wipe away the dust in slow careful strokes, changing position of the dust cloth on her fingers as she notices the dust collecting. The brush is used for carved furniture, nooks and crannies.
 - Children can dust furniture tops, legs, baseboards, corners, ornaments, etc....
- Vacuuming
 - Materials: a vacuum cleaner
 - Most children love to run vacuums. Show your child how to connect the parts of the vacuum. (CAUTION: Make it very clear that an adult is to plug it in!!!) Show your child how to turn it ON and OFF and how to clean different parts of the rug.
- Sweeping:
 - Material: small broom, brush, dustpan
 - Show your child how to sweep dirt into a pile with the broom. Hold dustpan and sweep dirt into it with the little brush. Carefully carry the dustpan to wastebasket and empty it. Wash off dustpan.
- Pouring
 - Material: small attractive pitcher
 - Children can pour milk, juice and water for themselves and others.
 - The first pitcher should contain only as much as the glass or cup 2/3 full; later, pitcher contains more than one glass will hold.
- Setting the Table
 - Child helps parent put out dishes and silverware and carries them to the table one item at a time.

- Later, parent sets one place as an example and child sets a place for each family member.
- Finally, child sets table by himself, counting out each item each family member will need. Of course, items should be laid out within the child's reach.
- **Sponging Off Plastic Tabletops and Countertops**
 - Material: small sponge 2"x 3"
 - Show your child how to wet and wring out sponge from a tap.
 - Child carefully sponges off counters, etc., putting crumbs in a pile or sweeping them into his/her hand.
- **Putting Away Toys**

This is a habit. Encourage your child to replace each toy on the shelf after he/she has used it. Sometimes children get so much out so fast that they get frantic and impossibly frustrated. If this happens, the adult should put away the toys with a friendly manner and say nothing.