

Pack # 1 Montessori learning ideas

THE FMS LEARNING FROM HOME SERIES PACK FOR
Under 3 (Birth - 3 years)



Forestville
MONTESSORI School
Thriving beyond...

Released Monday 6th April 2020

A Message from Denice and Anthony:

Hello Toddler Parents,

If you are self-isolating, how's life as you transition your children to this temporary arrangement of learning from home? It's lovely seeing the children who continue to attend school. For all the children at home, we are missing you very much.

We are here for you.

This is not home schooling. We are intentionally not being prescriptive and providing structured daily schedules about learning at home because as a family, you will be making choices that work for you.

We will probably never again live through a time such as this. We are all slowing down and reflecting on what matters in our lives. In the video series we made last year, Sue Birdsall, the Founder of Forestville Montessori School had this to say about what's important about a Montessori education:

"It's the best environment they could ever have. The way they are given knowledge, acquire knowledge, learn about the universe, the world and what's important in society and get to know what their place is and how they can contribute."

There has never been a more poignant time for us to recognise the profound impact of a Montessori education for peace and for life.

We're providing your children with some learning ideas. They will have many more ideas of their own so let them go with the flow. Whatever comes of this unfathomable epidemic, there will be much learning and we will all be wiser.

This is a moment in time it is temporary. Let's focus on what we want for our children and their childhood beyond COVID-19. Together, we will get through this.

Denice Scala

Principal

Anthony Milano

Deputy Principal

Head of Montessori Teaching & Learning

From Your Teachers

Hello Toddler Children and Parents,

You may have been at home for a while now instead of coming to FMS. We want you to know that we miss you and have been thinking about you. We thought that we would send you Pack 1 of the FMS Montessori Learning From Home Series.

Parents, the activities are designed as a guide and are a good starting point for all children. As you know, at FMS we take the children from where they are, so the age groupings are a guide. Please speak to your class Director and Assistants, via the office by phone or via email if you have any questions about where to start your child in Pack 1. We understand that families will engage in some, none or all of the activities and we support your decision.

We are looking forward to sending out further videos suitable for your child's developmental level.

Enjoy your time together and we are here for you now and always.

Alex, Katrina and Ishbel

Birth to 3 Staff



1 Practical Life

Practical life in Montessori is a series of purposeful activities aimed at assisting the child gain independence through mastery over the environment. This helps develop coordination, concentration, and a sense of responsibility.

It is fairly easy to set up some practical life activities at home for the child under three years old. These activities could consist of hand washing, pegging on the line, or window washing.



1 Hand washing table

The hand washing exercise helps children with concentration, stability, coordination, and balancing. It is also 'heavy work' (by carrying a bucket of water) to help those who need to expend a little energy. It is also purposeful water play.

Set up a small bowl on a low stable table, or coffee table. Have a folded towelling face cloth on the table, with a small bar of soap and a small jug. Have a small mirror (optional) on the table too. Have a small bucket for carrying water.

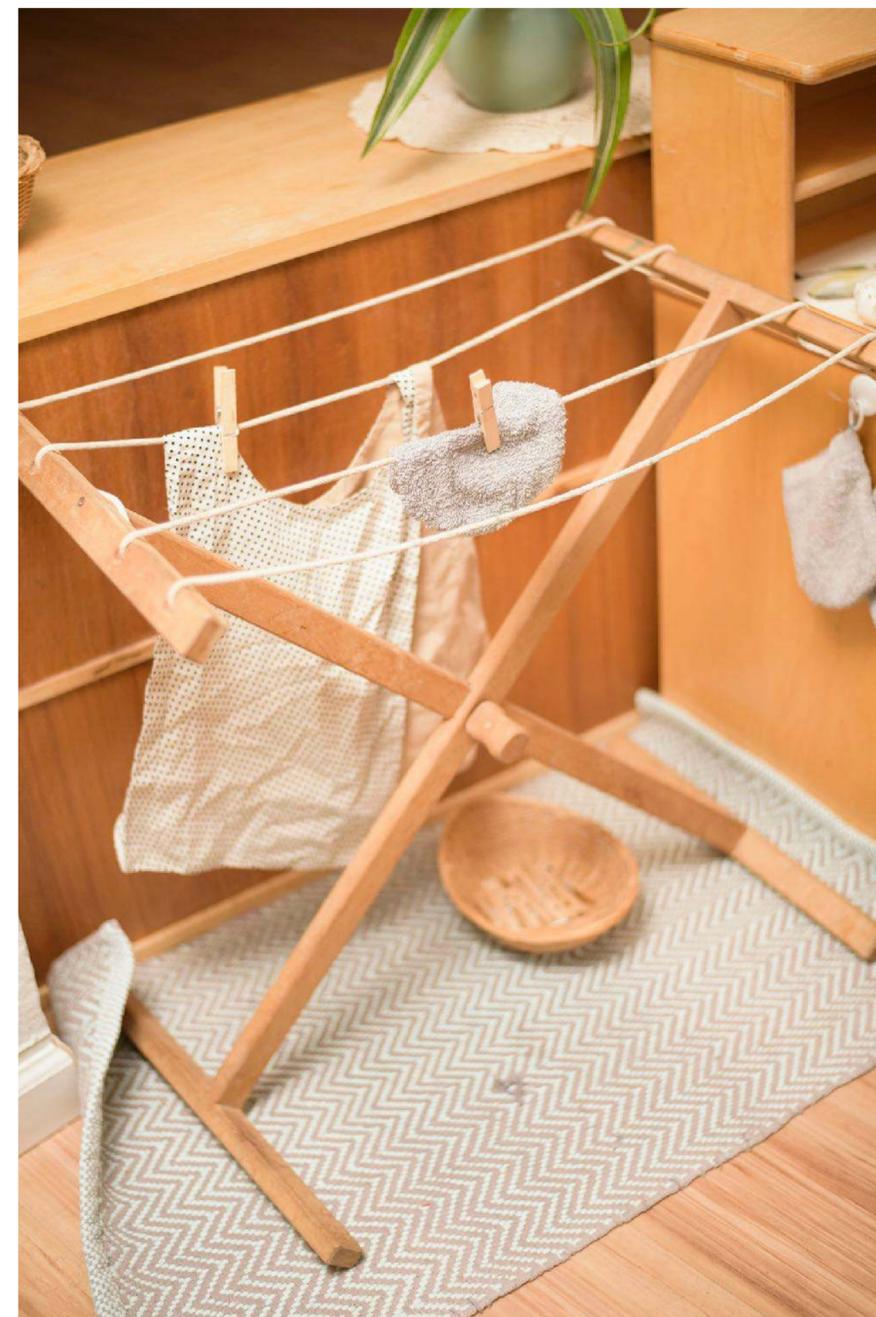
- Take the jug and fill with water. Carry it with two hands to the basin and pour slowly and carefully into the basin. Place jug back onto the table.
- Wash hands using the soap, rinse in the water, then dry hands on the hand towel.
- Pick up the bowl and pour the water into the bucket bending the knees and lowering the bowl till it taps the side of the bucket. This lets the child know when to start tipping the water out, lessening the chance of spillage.
- Take the bucket with two hands holding the handle outside and tip it on the garden.
- Bring the bucket back inside and place it back under the table.
- Dry up the drips on the table and in the basin with the cloth provided, making it ready for use again.
- Put the damp drying cloth into the washing basket.



1 Pegging on the line

This activity helps children with concentration, and fine motor skills, using the pincer grip to press the peg open. This will help strengthen your child's fingers and hands in readiness for writing when the time comes.

- Set up a clothes horse (drying rack) with a basket of pegs next to the clothes horse.
- Put all the socks, face washers, smaller items from the washing machine in a small basket that will be easy for your child to carry.
- This way your child can help you hang out the washing as you hang out the larger items on the line.



1 Window washing

This activity helps with concentration, coordination, and is purposeful.

Set up a basket or tray with a small spray bottle with water in it, a face cloth, and a squidgy, at a low window or glass door.

- Take the spray bottle and spray water on the glass.
- Take the squidgy holding the handle with two hands, using long strokes down from the top to bottom, cleaning the window.
- Use the towel to wipe up water that collects at the bottom of the window ledge.
- Place used towel into dirty wash basket.



2 Science

Items from nature

Close up on nature

You will need:

- a low bookshelf to put the tray on
- a small table and chair
- or a mat to do the work at

Prepare a tray with a small basket/bowl of items such as different leaves, feathers, flowers, or tree pods. No more than three to five items at a time.

Place a magnifying glass on the tray so that your child can look through the magnifying glass to see the fine detail of the items on the tray.



2 Science

Magnets

Hematite stone is naturally magnetic. This in itself is interesting to look at. Feel them stick together and repel each other depending on how you place them together.

Bottles with Magnets.

Take two small water bottles with no label and place some magnetic and non-magnetic items in the bottles. For example, some cut up pipe cleaners, small pom poms, a paper clip. Replace the cap and glue it on.

Use a magnet to move up and down the bottle to see which items are attracted to the magnet.

Place two bottles in a basket with a magnet. Have a rolled-up place mat with it so that your child do this work on the small mat at a table.



2 Kitchen scales

Heavy and light.

You will need:

- a set of kitchen scales
- items to weigh

Put a basket of small farm animals, river stones, coins, or shells on a tray with the scales that you can display on a shelf.

Your child can take these to a table and work with them.



3

Sensorial

Sensorial materials help the child experience each sense. Initially one sense at a time. It helps the child become aware of new experiences.

Movement and repetition are needed for completion, building muscle memory.

Some examples of these activities are play dough, pasting and collage, opening and closing jars. Books with different textures on the pages such as carpet, sandpaper and silk provide experiences of rough, smooth, hard and soft.



3

Play dough

This activity helps physical development.

While they poke prod, roll, and squish the playdough, they are developing the strength in their hands and fingers.

This improves dexterity which is needed for the development of writing and drawing. It also improves hand eye coordination,



3

Jars: opening and closing

By opening and closing the lids on different sized jars children are manipulating their hands to achieve their goal.

This activity helps with fine motor skills, concentration and focus.



3

Pasting and collage on paper

This activity also helps with fine motor development and concentration. It is also teaching about texture as it is very sticky and slimy.



Language

4

In Montessori spoken language is used in everything that they do in a day. The child absorbs important information while seeing, touching, and naming familiar things. Language materials help the child build the tools for communication.

The ways that we can encourage this at home is by having books on the shelf that they can look at. Reading to your child is of great benefit also.

Having items displayed on the shelf on trays or in baskets that spark curiosity for learning is also a good way to build on their language skills.

For example, there could be kitchen utensils on one tray, or different brushes from around the environment on another. There could be swimming items on another tray, or some animals from a particular country. This sparks conversation between you and your child about the items on the tray and what the names of the items are, or where they could come from.



4

African animals in a basket

Place each item on the table or a mat.

Strike up a conversation with your child:

- What is the name of this animal?
- What sound does this animal make?
- What country does it come from?

To make it even more fun, you can find these animals on YouTube. Watch them in the wild and listen to the sounds they make.



4

Farm animals in a basket

Place each item on the table or a mat.

Strike up a conversation with your child:

- What is the name of this animal?
- What sound does this animal make?

To make it even more fun, you can find these animals on YouTube. Watch them on the farm and listen to the sounds they make.



4

Cooking utensils on a tray

Place each item on the table or a mat.

Strike up a conversation with your child:

- Where you would find these items?
- What would you do with them?
- What are the names of each item?



4

Swimming / beach items on a tray

Place each item on the table or a mat.

Strike up a conversation with your child:

- What you would do with these?
- Where would you use them?
- When would you use them?



4

Musical instruments in a basket

Place each item on the table or a mat.

Strike up a conversation with your child:

- What are the names of each item?
- How would you play them?

Let your child play the instrument after you show them how to use it.



4

Book corner

Your child can spend quiet time here reading to themselves, or with you reading aloud to them.

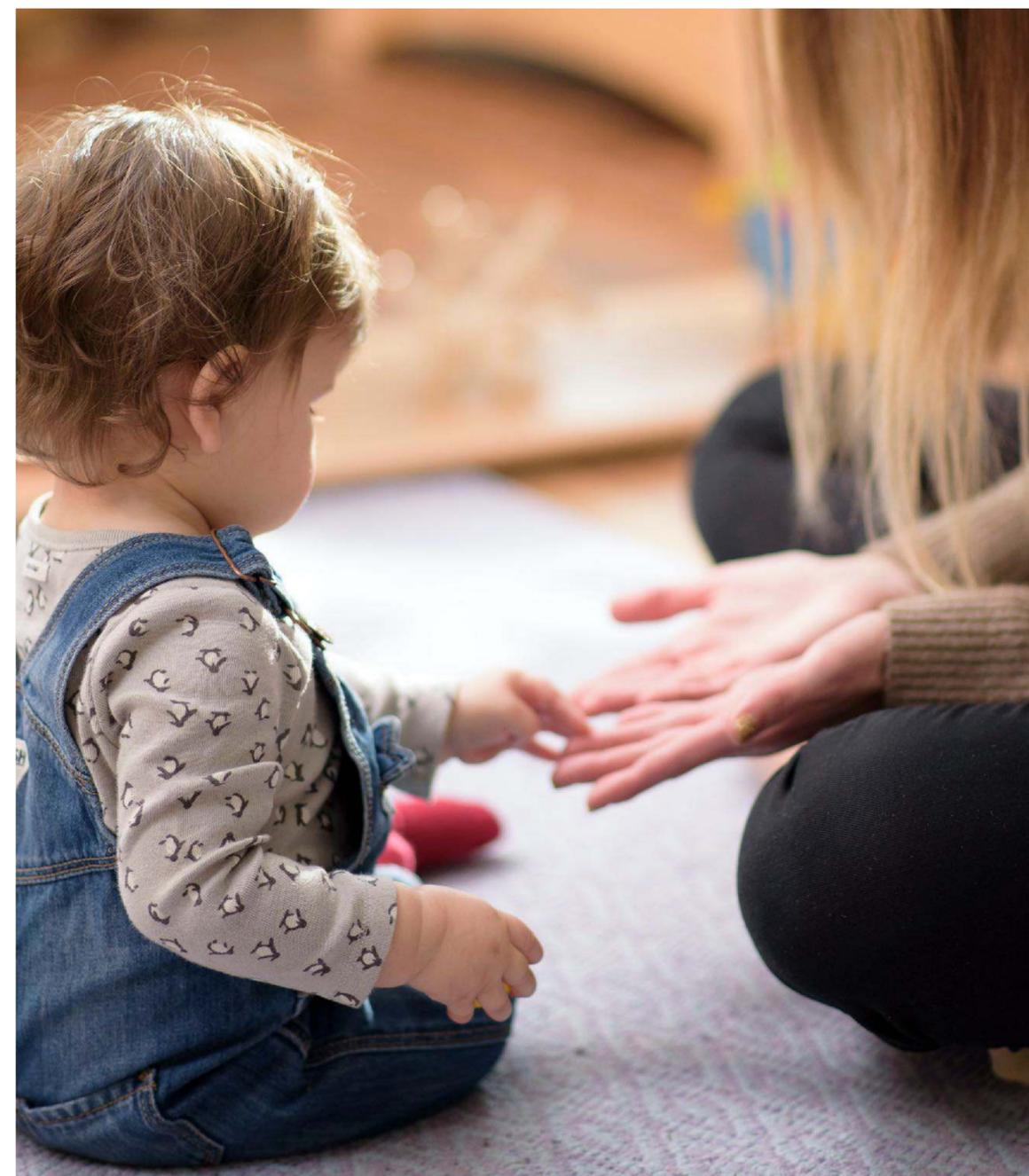


Mathematics

5

Children are exposed to numbers and math in their daily lives. They see numbers on clocks, and other daily objects, and hear their parents talking about money or how many of something exists. In the toddler world, all of the areas provide a foundation for math.

- Manipulative items give the child experience with handling objects with fine motor skills that provide the skills necessary for working out maths.
- Practical life objects can easily be counted and provide repetition and focus needed for math work.
- Language teaches the association between the word and the symbols.
- Sensorial provides a great link to many of the Montessori math materials.



5 Patterns with coloured paddle pop sticks

This provides a clear view of the different numbers with the different colours, and a hands on approach to counting.

This activity helps with concentration and focus, grouping numbers and colours.



5

Pompoms in a ice cube tray with tongs

This activity helps with concentration, focus, and fine motor development.

Your child can also start to count the pompoms as they take them in and out of the ice tray.

