

Projects for Home that Support Your Child's Learning in the Montessori Classroom

Creative Arts / Construction

- Knit, crochet, spin, weave, sew, quilt, hook rugs, embroider, tie-dye, beadwork, paint, sculpt.
- Learn new art projects by reading in books or taking an art class.
- Work with a knowledgeable adult to build a fence, a doghouse, a bike ramp, a bookcase, a bench, etc.
- Find an adult who has a lot of tools and likes to build or repair things. Learn the names of all the tools the adult has. Learn to write the names as well as say them. Learn what each tool is used for. Assist parent in repairing or building something (screen door, bird feeder-- measure, calculate materials needed, etc.)
- Learn photography – how to take a really good picture.
- Practice your musical instrument or learn new songs to sing. If possible, take private music lessons on your musical instrument.
- Learn a new song to teach the class in the fall. Bring a copy of the words when you teach it to us.
- Learn to dance.
- Visit one of the art museums in town. Visit the gift shop after you've toured the museum. Buy postcards of your favorite works, and try to copy them at home with colored pencils or watercolors.

Language / Words / Literature

- Schedule a weekly trip to the public library. Learn how to use the catalog. Plan to spend at least an hour looking through books, looking up things in the catalog, reading magazines, etc.

- Take regular trips to bookstores. Make a list of all the good bookstores.
- Write a description of a friend, a friend's house, a pet, a favorite place, a vacation spot, etc.
- Interview your family and relatives. Start a family newsletter.
- Enter an essay, story, or poetry contest. Submit your work to magazines that publish student work.
- Practice telling stories. At the library, look for books of folktales from around the world. Pick a few to learn by heart.
- Find a newspaper article you want to read and discuss with your family.
- Have a family reading time. Everybody reads whatever they want in the same room. Start small: perhaps 15 minutes after dinner, gradually increase the time.
- Have a read-aloud time. One person could read while the others clean up from dinner or do some other simple task. Family members take turns being the reader.
- At the bookstore, look for books of crossword puzzles, anagrams, and other word games. Keep a book of word puzzles in the car to work on whenever you are riding around.
- Play great board games such as Scrabble, UpWords, Boggle, or Word Thief.
- Write with your family. Start a family journal. In the journal, keep lists of things to do around the house, descriptions of special events such as hosting houseguests, notes about phone calls to family friends and relatives, anything you want to record from your everyday life. See Peter Stillman's book *Families Writing* for more ideas and inspiration.
- Listen to books on tape while driving around on errands or on vacation.
- Read and write poetry. Memorize a poem a week.

- Choose a story to practice reading aloud. Practice the pronunciations of all the words. Try giving each character a different voice when you read. Try to use your voice to make the story more interesting to your audience.
- Put on some calming music (Bach, Mozart, Satie, Gregorian chant are nice) and practice making the most beautiful cursive letters you can.
- Write birthday cards, anniversary cards, and thank-you cards, invitations to relatives or friends
- Write a review of a book you read or a movie you saw. Tell the basic idea of the book or movie and what you liked and didn't like about it. What did the author do well? What did they not do so well?
- Practice spelling words that you often misspell; make up your own list of challenging words.
- Try to learn a new word each week; how to spell it, what it means, and how to use it in your writing.

Math / Numbers / Geometry

- When you shop at the grocery store, take along a pad and pencil; keep a running total of the cost of items you buy. Check your answer against the cash register receipt you get when you pay for your items.
- Keep statistics. Graph when you go to bed, how many pages you read each day, how far you walk each day, how many ounces of water you drink per day, how fast you can jog around the block, how many multiplication facts you can do in a minute, etc.
- Measure things around the house. Take trips to the park, etc., to measure things there. Plan garden (measure plot, select vegetables, consult almanac for planting times by region, calculate distances between plants, etc.)

- Work on memorizing all your multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction facts. Once you've mastered your math facts, work on speed.
- Plan a family activity (bowling, movies, skating, hike-- calculate costs, time, travel, snacks, gear needed, etc.)
- Plan a family trip (consult maps for best route. Calculate distance, time, fuel consumption, meals, hotel, etc.)

Nature / Plants / Animals

- Whenever you travel to a new city, visit the local zoo and aquarium or the local natural history museum.
- Before you travel to another part of the country or to a different country, read about the biomes there. Read about their climate, animals, and plants. While you're there, look for things you read about.
- Go camping with your family or friends.
- Learn more about nutrition. For a week, keep a journal of what you eat.
- Make a botany map of your back yard. Place each plant in its place on the map and label each plant with its common name and scientific name.

History / Geography

- Help plan the family vacation. Research the landmarks, geography, culture, special attractions of the area you'll be visiting. Map out the route you'll take.
- Make a map of your house and gardens. Make a detailed map of your room.
- Interview someone from another country. Ask them about their country's history, landmarks, cities, agriculture, industries, religions, festivals, form of government, famous scientists, famous artists and writers, etc. From your notes, write a summary of what you learned about the person's country.

Science

- Check out the astronomy programs, nature programs, science programs, etc.
- At the library, look through the children books on science. Choose one that has experiments you can do at home, such as the books by Janice Van Cleave. Try some experiments at home with your parents.
- With permission, take apart an old clock or machine to see how it works.

Sports / Exercise

- Play on a team. Practice a sport or physical skill.
- Hike, bike, skate, swim, walk, cave, climb, canoe, snorkel, run, ski, join gymnastics, martial arts, play basketball, soccer, baseball, football, etc.
- Spend as much time outdoors as possible.

Community Service / Activism

- Keep a scrapbook of newspaper articles on issues you care about in the community or world.
- Participate in an environmental clean-up. This might be as simple as going to the park with your family or friends and filling up a big trash bag with all the trash you can pick up. Save recyclable bottles and plastic in a separate bag to recycle later.
- Help younger children learn to do something they want to do.
- Visit an elder.
- Volunteer with an adult at a local animal shelter or zoo.
- Volunteer with an adult at Meals on Wheels.

- Offer to help neighbors with pet sitting, picking up their newspaper when they're out of town, etc.

Household Service

- Help out more with the household tasks since you have more time at home. Learn to do some new things such as washing clothes, ironing, folding laundry, polishing furniture, vacuuming, mowing the lawn (if your parents agree). Work alongside another family member whenever possible.
- Cook together with your family. Plan a family dinner/celebration (plan menu—budget, calculate groceries, paper goods, etc.)
- Be responsible for one or two meals per week. Plan the menu with your parent(s). Make a shopping list. Do the shopping. Cook the meal with your parent(s). Try not to use a microwave oven when you cook!
- Be responsible for family chores; taking out trash, putting away your laundry, making your bed, setting the table, clearing the table, putting dishes in the dishwasher, keeping your room tidy, etc.