



Dear Parents,

Many of you ask for suggestions for work that you can help your child do over the summer, to help keep their skills sharp for the upcoming school year. Here are a few thoughts from the Primary Faculty.

Practical Life:

- Many parents ask how they can incorporate more Montessori into their home. Care of the environment is an aspect of our curriculum that transfers to the home very easily. Caring for the environment develops responsibility, confidence and independence. We all want to feel that we are contributing members in our family as well as needed and valuable to those we love. "Chores" or "contributions to the family" are a great way to support this need. Some ideas to try:
 - Putting toys away
 - Helping prepare snack/meal/ picnic
 - Scrubbing and peeling vegetables
 - Helping to set and clear the table
 - Helping to make their bed
 - Sweeping
 - Organizing books on a shelf
 - Filling a pet's water/food bowl
 - Putting dirty clothing into the laundry hamper
 - Sorting laundry, dark and light
 - Folding or rolling washcloths and towels, matching socks for clean laundry
 - Gathering trash, sorting recycling
 - Wiping up spills
 - Dusting
 - Watering plants
 - Unloading utensils from the dishwasher

Remember that children will learn by doing and practicing. Enjoy and appreciate their efforts, it's all part of the journey!

Writing:

- Keep a journal about summer trips.
- Practice pencil control by doing mazes and dot-to-dots.
- Sound out each letter as child writes, using short vowel sounds.
- Start the creative writing process by saying things like, "That would make a great story! Let's write it down!"
- Explain that good stories have a beginning, middle and an end. Model a good story.
- Have your child help write shopping lists, letters to a loved one, a thank you note, etc.

Reading:

- The time spent reading and enjoying books with your child truly impacts his/her learning at school! Read to your child often and make it part of your routine.
- Make books available and accessible, particularly in places your child might need to sit and wait (the car, the doctor's office, the DMV etc)
- Take a walk through the book and check out the pictures with your pre-reader.
- Play rhyming games and other "phonemic awareness" games, playing with the sounds in words
 - "I spy something that starts with the sound /t/"
 - "I spy something that rhymes with zat"
 - "How many words can we think of that rhyme with car?"
 - "I'm thinking of something that has the sounds /d/ /o/ /g/"
 - "What sounds do you hear in the word plate?" (these games are about sounds, not spelling, plate has 4 sounds /p/l/ā/t/)
- Here are a few ways we explain a few reading tricks to our students:
 - "5 Finger" rule. If your child is reading a page in a book, hold up a finger for each word they can't figure out. If you get to 5, the book is too challenging
 - Point to the words being read to keep their place.

Math:

- Rote Count/Numeral Identification:
 - Dot-to-dot worksheets
 - Have kids count beads/buttons onto pipe cleaners or string (can also incorporate addition/subtraction this way.)
 - Have your child count *everything* (i.e: steps while they walk up/down, silverware in the kitchen drawer, socks in his/her dresser, toys in their toy box, etc.)
 - Point out and identify numbers on license plates, building addresses, phone numbers, menus, weekly advertisements etc.
- Measurement:
 - Have your child help measure ingredients when cooking or baking
 - Help them read measurement with a tape measure and measure objects around the house.
 - Help them understand distance when going on trips or even taking a walk to the park.
 - Equivalence can be understood when handing out snacks (ie: you have 6 grapes, I have 3. How many more do I need to be equal to you?)
- Extensions:
 - Have your child make a monthly calendar to keep track of upcoming events
 - Help them read a basic analogue clock (if younger, help them understand "o'clock" and "half-past". If older, help them skip-count by fives to help them read around the clock.
 - Have a lemonade stand and have your child help count the money and change

Great Websites:

- www.switcheroozoo.com
- www.brainpopjr.com
- www.starfall.com
- www.pbskids.org/zoom/activities
- www.kids.nationalgeographic.com
- www.highlightskids.com
- www.abcya.com
- www.funbrain.com

Great iPad/iPhone Apps:

- Montessori Pre-Language Exercises Opposites (by Ramtek)
- Montessori Letter Sounds
- Bongo's spelling adventure (Montessori spelling app)
- First words (by Learning Touch)
- Montessorium
- Montessori Tech
- Rocket Math
- Montessori Materials Geometric Cabinet
- Mobile Montessori (there are a few)
- Epic!
- Reading Rainbow
- Alpha Writer

What a great year it's been! We hope you have a wonderful summer!

The Primary Team

Kelly, Christina, Marissa, Emily, Erin and Rachel