

LEARNING LANGUAGE

Listening

The child develops the capacity to hear with understanding.

I Spy - Use language minis to play I Spy. You can play in two different ways. Use the name of objects first, then use adjectives. Example: "I spy a fish." or "I spy something green."

Self Talk & Parallel Talk - Narrate your actions as you demonstrate an activity (self talk). Narrate the child's actions as they complete the activity (parallel talk). [See Videos]

Important Note - Tone of voice, speaking with clarity, ambient noise level, & articulation all model good communication and help the child to listen well. [See Videos]

Speaking

The child is able to communicate their own ideas in words.

Act It Out - Communicate without language by acting out a story or situation without speaking. Example: "Pretend to carry the biggest log you ever saw."

Question Game - Use open ended questions for concept development. "What is a doctor? What do they do? Where do they work?"

Stories - Have the child make up a story about a single mini language object. Then add another object and have them include it in the story.

Word Illustration - Use words to describe what is happening in an image or illustration.

Sequence Recall - Ask the child to recall the main moments of a story or event in order. They can describe events like how they get ready in the morning.

Pre-Writing

The child develops basic skills necessary for writing and reading.

Letter Matching - Match Moveable Alphabet cards together.

Letter Grouping - Montessori does not follow the traditional order of the alphabet. Instead, letters are grouped by sound or shape. [See Videos]

Basic Letters - Learn letter sounds and shapes by tracing the Letter Work book. Letters are not introduced by their name, but by the sound they make.

More Matching - The child can match Moveable Alphabet cards to the Letter Work book.

Sand Tray - Use the Letter Work book to trace a letter and draw it in the sand tray. Children can then to trace letters anywhere. A fun game is to trace a letter on another person's back and have them guess which one it was.

What's Missing - Place a few language minis on a tray. Let the child observe them. Then secretly remove one. Ask the child to guess which object is missing.

Beginning Sound Presentation - Use language minis and a three period lesson to introduce beginning sounds: "Apple starts with 'ah.'"

Even More Matching - Match the Moveable Alphabet letter to the language mini by beginning sound.

Ending Sound Presentation - Similar to Beginning Sound Presentation, but with ending sounds.

I Spy - Play with language minis using beginning or ending sound. "I Spy an object that starts with 'ah.'"

Upper and Lower Case - Use Moveable Alphabet to match upper and lower case letters.

Writing

Children learn basic writing, then reading naturally follows.

Tracing - Use objects from around the house to trace with the tripod pencil. (Esp. Montessori puzzles) You can also use a printable or any line to trace as well.

Handwriting Practice Grid - Use the Practice Grid to develop motor control.

Practice Letters - Use the Montessori writing paper to practice letters.

Name Tracing - Write the child's name on the Montessori writing paper and have them trace it.

Phonetic Words - Make simple phonetic words with the Moveable Alphabet.

Print Phonetic Words - Use the Moveable Alphabet as a reference and copy the letters on the Montessori writing paper. As they advance remove the Moveable Alphabet.

Important Note - Do not correct bad spelling as children are first learning. Instead, encourage phonetic spelling. Correct spelling will come later.

Vowels and Consonants - Sort the Moveable Alphabet into vowels and Consonants.

***Bonus:** Use the sign language poster to learn how to sign the letters of the alphabet.*

This Toolbox gives an introduction to the Montessori approach to language and provides a starting point for future exploration of Montessori writing and reading.