

The Sunnybrook Scene

Sunnybrook Montessori School
April 2012

"Only practical work and experience lead the child to maturity."

Maria Montessori



Participating in Family Life

"Human beings of all ages want to be able to communicate with others, to challenge themselves, to do important work, and to contribute to society. This is human nature at its best.

This desire is especially strong during the time when the child who has been observing all kinds of important activity going on around her has finally mastered the mental and physical skills to stand up, walk, use her hands, and participate in real work.

A child learns self-control, and develops a healthy self-image if the work is real—washing fruits and vegetables, setting or clearing a table, washing dishes, watering plants, watering the garden, sorting, folding, and putting away laundry, sweeping, dusting, helping in the garden, any of the daily work of her family."

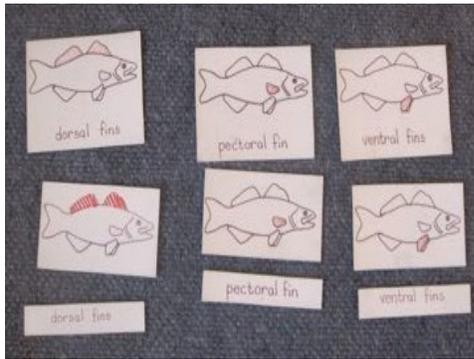
The Child's Purpose

"The child's reasons for, and methods of, working are different from ours. We adults will usually choose to carry out a task in the most efficient and quickest way. A child, on the other hand, is working to master the activity and to practice and perfect her abilities. She may scrub a table for hours, but only when she feels the urge. She may sweep the floor every morning for two weeks and not again for a month—because she will be occupied with mastering something else. If we expected her to keep carrying out every new activity every day, there would be no time for sleep.

There are many physical, emotional and mental values in work. Through these activities the child learns to be independent. There can be no intelligent choice or responsibility at any age without independence in thought and action. She learns to concentrate, to control muscles, to focus, to analyze logical steps and complete a cycle of activity."

These excerpts have been shared with permission of "The Joyful Child Montessori Company: www.thejoyfulchild.us"

What Is It and What Do You Do With It? On the left is a picture of nomenclature cards from the Language Area of the classroom. A



Child lays out the nomenclature cards, matching the labels to the corresponding images. This activity works on visual discrimination, vocabulary development, letter and word recognition, science knowledge (or whichever area the images are classified under), and problem solving. If you are interested in having some of your own, there are many online sites that offer free downloads, just

google "Montessori Nomenclature Cards."

To the right is an activity from the Math Area. What would your child learn from this material?



What Can I Do at Home?

Hone your child's senses and develop vocabulary!



* Have **taste** tests of different cheeses, apples, pears, breads, or nuts. Ask your child to describe the colors, flavors, textures, and scents. Discuss similarities and differences and why one is preferred over the other.

* Try developing the sense of **touch**. If your child is interested, put a blindfold on him and offer him different objects to feel. Ask him to describe the objects - light, heavy, rough, smooth, hot, cold, wet, dry, etc. Collect pairs of objects and have him match them by feel.

* Use those olfactory senses, and sniff out things around the house. **Smell** and describe vanilla, baby powder, shampoo, potting soil, an orange, or any other scented items.

Calendar

Saturday, April 7th, 9AM - 12PM - Photo Fundraiser - Fletcher Manley child/family photo opportunity. A few time slots are left. Contact Kirsten Scobie at benkirs@yahoo.com.

Friday, April 13th - Parent Teacher Conferences - Please sign up on the bulletin board at school for your preferred time slot. School closed this day.

Monday, April 16th - Friday, April 20th - Vacation week - School Closed.

Saturday, April 28th - Sunnybrook Celebration of the Young Child/Open House - Sunnybrook will be hosting a day of music, activities, and fun for all Sunnybrook families, alumni, friends, community members, and potential students/families. More details to come!

Monday, April 30th, 7PM - Language Area Montessori Workshop - Don't miss our final Montessori workshop with Gerry Tobin! Refreshments provided by the Polish Princess. Babysitting available with advance sign-up - please e-mail Lyn.Schmucker@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 12th - Yard Sale Fundraiser - Please donate, volunteer, pass the word on, and attend our yard sale fundraiser at the school. See e-mails from Kirsten Scobie for details.