



Language Development Lesson 1

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This week we shall continue deepening our understanding of the Montessori Child and introduce Language development into the mix.

Language Development

Lesson Objectives:

1. To provide an over view of the subject Language Development
2. To have a birds – eye view of the scope of this subject for the 3-6 age group

Lesson 1: Language Development

Introduction

Language skills must be developed in a Montessori environment. Talking to children in sentences and not baby language is one of the first mistakes that must be corrected in communication with children. The art of communication developed by mankind is the main skill that makes the human being distinct from all other beings on earth. Think about it which other being speaks, writes, sings and communicates ideas the way we do? It is a skill that helps mankind pass down so much information and therefore it is important to help the child grasp and learn this skill at the right time when they are most receptive to learning language. This is during the 0-6 age period.

Things that you should be doing daily with young children:

1. Talking to the child
2. Introducing words on a daily basis: to start with it would just be things like

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'I am going to give you a bath now, let's see if the water is warm enough for you!' etc, As the child grows and develops, take walks daily and introduce different objects and things to her, using the 3 period lessons

1. Read daily to the child
2. Tell stories
3. Sing Songs
4. Learn Nursery Rhymes
5. Learn poems
6. As the child develops their speech skills: Ask questions and model answers in full sentences. Do not encourage monosyllable answers. For example if the child replies with a monosyllable simply repeat the answer in a full sentence. They soon catch on if you the guide also answer all their questions with a full sentence and not a monosyllable.
7. Start practicing hearing sounds in words and singing the alphabet songs from Letterland. You do not need to do symbols (letters) yet but a lot of work should be done from 1 and ½ years to 2 years with hearing the sounds in words, both initial, ending and medial (middle) sounds.
8. Play the I Spy Game: You say 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with ah'

The child looks around and finds something in the environment that starts with the sound you've just mentioned. Plan what sounds you want to work on each day, week month. Give the children lots of practice. When they can hear the sounds and have had lots of practice only then do you start work on the recognition of letter symbols, the child is usually 2 years plus at this stage.



Always encourage daily reading or story telling in the classroom. This is so key. Encourage your parents to read to the children daily at home. But make sure it is happening in school, because only a handful of parents will do this.

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Language Development Curriculum Overview

1. Pre reading and writing activities
2. Introduction of the sounds (audible work)
3. I Spy Game
4. Sandpaper Letters
5. An introduction to the Inset for design
6. Moveable Alphabet Box and building words
7. Work with 3 letter words Pink List
8. Blending words- Pink List
9. Reading Words – Pink List
10. Reading little books
11. Introduction to consonant blends
12. Introduction to Grammar - Nouns
13. Building Words – Blue List
14. Blending Words – Blue List
15. Reading Words – Blue List
16. Reading short stories
17. Introduction To Grammar - Verbs
18. Introduction to phonograms
19. Building Words – Green List
20. Blending Words – Green List
21. Reading Words – Green List
22. Introduction to word study
23. Introduction to Grammar – Adjectives and other parts of speech
24. Introduction to Sentence Analysis

Activities: These are some suggestions of things you may want to do.

1. Start learning/and or compiling lists of songs/nursery rhymes and poems to sing to and teach children. There are no right or wrong answers or lists, so far they are age appropriate. Do not leave out mother tongue songs as well. Our children are bilingual.
2. Find board books for children.
3. Read children stories,
4. Read out these stories aloud to yourself
5. Read stories to your children daily.
6. Tell them stories and get them to tell you stories or repeat the story you have just told them.
7. Give them opportunities to talk. Children should be allowed to talk, not keep quiet. Now they should learn to talk and not shout, be babbling and just making noise. But talking is always good.

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Experts in literacy and child development know that if a child knows eight nursery rhymes by heart at the age of four, they are more likely to be among the best readers and spellers in their class by the time they are in Primary School.

Why?

- Nursery rhymes help children learn early phonic skills, as rhymes lay a foundation for the child to develop the ability to hear, identify and manipulate letter sounds.
- Rhymes give practice in pitch, volume as well as language rhythm. There is a difference in the sound of your voice when you ask a question and when you are retelling a story; children need to learn these language variations.
- Nursery rhymes help expand a child's imagination; they transport the children to a world of fantasy and play. Rhymes can develop a child's visualisation skills through the use of actions.
- They follow a clear sequence of events. Though usually short, nursery rhymes often tell a story and contain a beginning, middle and end. They need this skill of engaging with a sequence of events when learning to read.
- Nursery rhymes are easy to repeat and so they become some of a child's first sentences. Usually a child starts to speak by using single words eventually they put these together to express themselves. The rhymes allow children to speak and understand full sentences, this is a skill needed before they are able to read.
- Nursery rhymes help to build and improve a child's vocabulary. They hear and use new words that they would not necessarily come across in everyday language.
- They are a form of poetry, which children have to read, analyse and write about throughout their school career, nursery rhymes gives a child a head start.
- Nursery rhymes are a powerful learning source of early literacy, giving the child the opportunity to become interested in the rhythm and patterns of language in a way that listening to stories does not provide. Alliteration (sound repetition, and sound patterns) in 'Gosey, Gossey, Gander', Onomatopoeia (the imitation of sounds in words) in 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' and rhyme in 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little star, How I wonder what you are'
- Nursery rhymes are fun, children enjoy the fact that often the rhymes make no sense or have an unexpected ending.

Introduction to Phonics.

There is a lot to learn with phonics, as this is the bedrock of the child's understanding the art of reading and writing the English language.

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It is important to say at this junction that times have changed and gladly so from the times of children being forced to memorize every word they read. We mostly learnt to read from memory alone. Today's child learns to read via decoding the sounds of the English Language represented by letters on the page.

As a parent interested and involved in their children's education and learning it is important for us to get down a few rudimentary facts about English Language and its phonics.

First thing is that you have 26 letters in the English language but then there are 44 sounds. In order for a child to be able to read and spell correctly these sounds must be known and mastered.

We cannot deal with the whole Phonics aspect in this course but we will learn the common sounds of the vowels so that we can get our children started on the right path. If you are interested in learning the full phonic code of the English Language or want to know how to help struggling children read, then contact me for further help.

The Early Code Vowel Sounds

At Addlo Montessori we use the Letterland Phonics system to teach the children the sounds and how to read. The simple reason for this is that the Letterland model is child friendly and the kids love it.

These are the first choice sounds of the five vowels, they are called first choice as the vowels have other sounds they make but these are the most common sounds.

a as in hat, apple, ant, cat

e as in elephant, egg, leg

i as in ink, pig, igloo

o as in orange, ostrich, dog

u as in umbrella, jug and up

The Introduction to Letterland:

The characters:

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Annie Apple

Eddy Elephant

Impy Ink

Oscar Orange

Uppy Umbrella

The songs:

a - To the tune of London Bridge is falling down

Annie Apple she says a

She says a 2ce

Annie Apple she says a

She belongs to Mr. A.

e - To the tune of Oh the grand old Duke of York

Here comes Eddy El-e-phant to talk to you and me

He just says e 2ce

He belongs to Mr. E.

i - To the tune of Polly put the kettle on

Impy Ink says i in words 3ce

He belongs to Mr. I.

o - To the tune of London Bridge is falling down

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Oscar Orange he says o

He says o, he says o

Oscar Orange he says o

He belongs to Mr. O.

u – To the tune of Here we go round the Mulberry Bush.

Uppy Umbrella says u in words

u in words, u in words

Uppy Umbrella says u in words

She belongs to Mr. U.

Now lets deal with the process of helping your child learn to read and write in a Montessori setting.

Phonics – The first thing is for the child to learn the sounds of the English code.

You will teach your child the Phonetic Alphabet, this is not ABCD, we are not learning the names of the letters or reciting it. Here is what you need to teach your child.

a as in apple

b as in bat

c as in cat

d as in dog

e as in elephant

f as in fog

g as in gum

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h as in hat

i as in ink

j as in jet

k as in kettle

l as in lap

m as in mat

n as in net

o as in orange (sounds like 'aw')

p as in pet

q as in queen (sounds like 'qw')

r as in red

s as in sit

t as in top

u as in up (sounds like 'uh')

v as in victory

w as in window

x as in box (sounds like 'ks')

y as in yellow

z as in zoo

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To help your child learn the sounds you will use what we call the 3 period lesson.

Step 1: Material: Sandpaper Letters

1. Identification: This is aaa – show the child, trace and he may repeat the sound.
2. Recognition: Show me aaa – child answers by pointing to the right letter
3. Recall: What is this? – ask 'what does this letter say?'

Once your child has started learning these initial sounds and can accurately match sounds they hear with the correct letters, the next step is word building. Very soon reading skills are developed and achieved.

Writing:

Montessori believes in preparing the child for writing long before the child actually holds a pencil and attempts to write. The Sensorial and Practical Life Activities all help to lay a solid foundation as the pincer grip is strengthened and developed.

It is essential for us as parents and educationists to look out for correct posture and handling of writing materials, the way a child holds the pencil will affect correct handwriting skills. If writing is learnt the wrong way to start with correcting it is so much more difficult.

Points to note about your child's handwriting

Children should be taught



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- How to hold a pencil/ pen correctly,
- How to join up writing once they are secure in movements of each letter
- How to write neat, fluent and a legible style of handwriting
- A style that follows writing from left to right, top to bottom of the page,
- How to start and finish letters correctly, regularity of size and shapes of the letters, regularity of spacing letters and words.
- How to develop an awareness of the importance of clear, neat presentation and layout.
- The use of different forms of handwriting for different purposes; such as printing for labelling maps or diagrams, a clear neat hand for presented work, a faster script for notes etc.

The following is the sequence to good handwriting:

- Developing the right writing grasp, through Sensorial and Practical Life Activities
- Drawing and Tracing and Coloring
- Writing letters and numerals.

There is a correct sequence to this process, its important not to put the cart before the horse.