

Montessori Practical Life is to guide children with fostering coordination of movement, developing independence, and adapting to the community. From the primary plane of development, Montessori children have exercised washing, carrying, dusting, polishing, and many other basic movements at school. They will continue to add their skills for caring for people and the environment which include the Grace and Courtesy Exercises and important social skills that enhance peaceful and kind interactions with people. Research shows that involving children in practical life skills at an early age can have a positive impact later in life.



Continued with this practice, the Upper Elementary students extend Practical Life Exercises at school and in the community. Our Bulletin Board Committee takes their hands-on approach to the new level and provides news and culture to the viewers. During Stone Soup event, the students chopped up vegetables and prepared delicious soup for the classmates. Many students volunteered at various non-profit organizations during Empowerment Project.



Bulletin Board Committee



Sewing for Holiday Gift Shop



Preparing soup for classmates on one wintery day

Research indicates that those children who have practical life skills are more responsible, better at dealing with frustration, more patient, and delaying gratification, all of which contribute to greater success in school and the community.

At home, there are many opportunities for children to extend their Practical Exercises acquired during school hours. In order for children to succeed in their practical exercises at home, parents should be mindful of these criteria.

- Realistic and practical goals: The chores that children can practice at home need to be safe and proportional. If a child is doing laundry, he needs to be guided with safe procedures of handling chemicals and machinery. The child should also see, feel, and smell how the dirty laundry transforms into clean and refreshed garments. Children need to connect their chores with the realistic outcome along with gratitude and a sense of accomplishment.
- Sense of family: Young children naturally want to imitate what you feel and do. Your attitude toward chores will transcend to your child. If you look at chores as boring repetition, you may need to remind yourself that you are your child's most important role model whom he looks up to. While a child's participation may increase your workload or slow down the speed, the key is to successfully instill a sense of responsibility and pride. The children have a role to play in the family dynamic.
- Individualized Attention: While there is no limit to the amount of chores your child can accomplish depending on his level of interest and ability, you need to be specific and purposeful. Every new task he learns, he will internalize the order and process which will give him the driving force to continue the task even better next time. Hopefully he will master the work as he does with Montessori material at school.
- Fail and Conquer: Let your child discover for himself when he leaves the clothes in the washer overnight, his favorite clothes will smell moldy and musky. If he does not put away his socks in an orderly way that you do, he may wear mismatched socks to school. Your household may be imperfect if children involve in chores. It takes time and lots of opportunities for children to figure out how to contribute and actually become a part of a smoothly operating household.



It is never too early or too late for children to play an important role in their family's success. Our patience and time will provide the purpose and responsibility they need for the short and long term successes.

P.S. Here is my "funny-in-retrospect" family emergency anecdote. About twenty years ago, we ran out of Cascade, so we used ordinary liquid dish soap in the place of Cascade for dishwashing machine, my son and I had to clean up suds after suds oozing out of the machine all afternoon. We made many mistakes, but we also solved many problems together. Ms. Ryoko