

How to Ask Your Child About Their Day

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P.E.N. to Paper

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Q & A

Q: Every day my child comes home and I ask her how her day was. She says, "Fine." And that ends that conversation! How can I get more out of her? I want to know what is going on in her day and how she is feeling about school.

A: Although a very common response from a child, it can be frustrating for a parent who wants to be involved in their child's school day. Here are a few suggestions for how to help your child be more forthcoming with school day information:

1. **Be specific.** Ask a general question and you're likely to get a general answer. Ask specific questions such as, "What did you do in math today?" "Did you work on (fill in work here – your reading or your music) this morning?" "What was the last thing that you did in class today?" Children often won't remember the things they did early in the day since their time concept may not yet be firmly established. But the more times that you

ask about specific activities, the more likely that your child will start to anticipate your questions and have an answer for you.

2. **Ask an emotionally based question.** Ask how your child felt about a certain subject, lesson or activity. You can also ask them the best thing that happened that day (or worst). With some children, this will be a more telling and informative answer than a list of work they completed.
3. **Model appropriate responses.** When conversing with your child encourage them to ask you about your day (reciprocal communication). When asked how your day was, answer with more detail than, "It was fine."
4. **Change your question.** Instead of "How was your day?" Ask, "What was the best thing about your day? What did you enjoy most?"

Dialogue is important no matter what age your child is. Keep asking questions!

If you have a question regarding Montessori, email it to:

pentopaper@cox.net

A Guide to the Pink Tower - Baan Dek

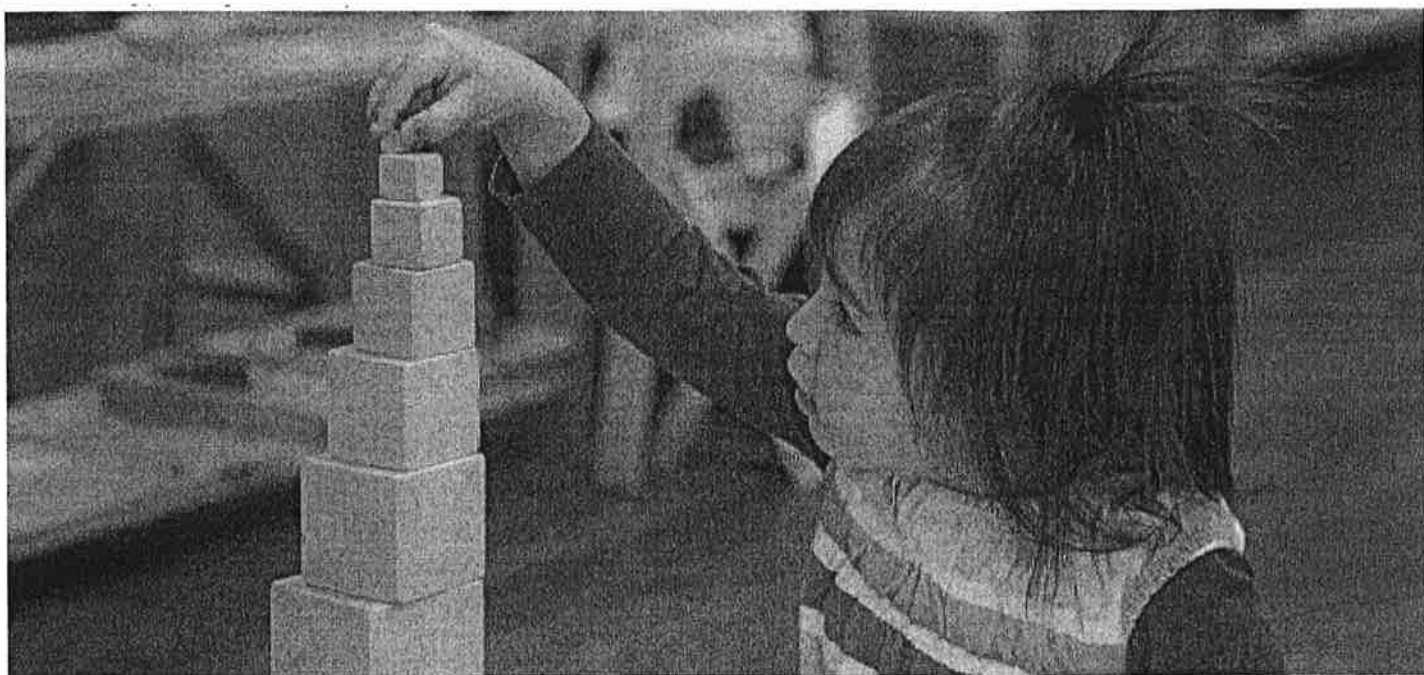


The Pink Tower: When you think Montessori, you think many things. One of the first things that usually comes to mind is the Pink Tower. What is the Pink Tower?

Materials: The pink tower is composed of ten solid wooden cubes. From 1x1x1 cm to 10x10x10 cm.

Aim: To build the graduated, three dimensional blocks.

Results: To understand sequence and order, develop visual discrimination and an awareness of dimension.



The pink tower develops visual discrimination and helps develop an awareness of dimensions. This is particularly relevant, to the size and shape of the child's environment. They have a model for comparison. The pink tower also helps reinforce eye-hand coordination, and strengthens small muscular movements. Additionally, the pink tower introduces children to an appreciation of math concepts, such as smaller and larger, and also serves as a preparation for the decimal system, with ten units in the activity.