

WHAT BELONGS IN A MONTESSORI CLASSROOM?



















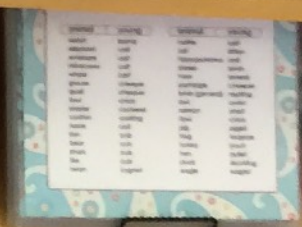
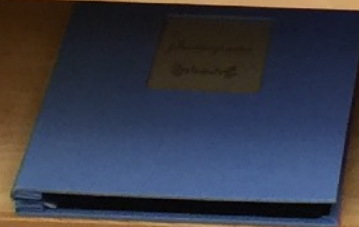
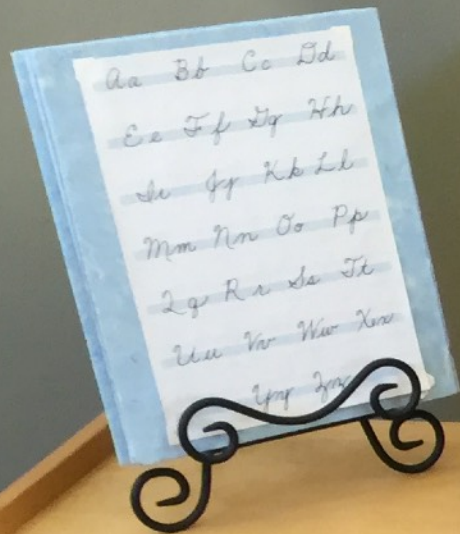














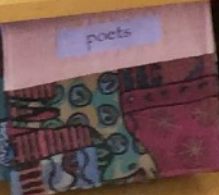
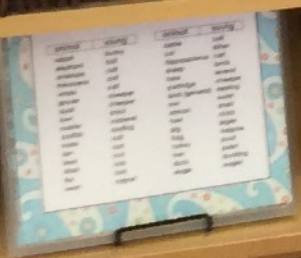
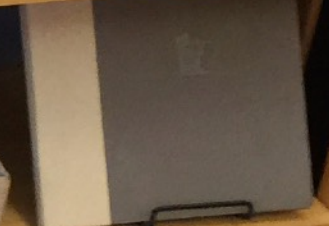
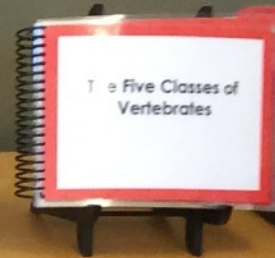
EMERGENCY
ALARM



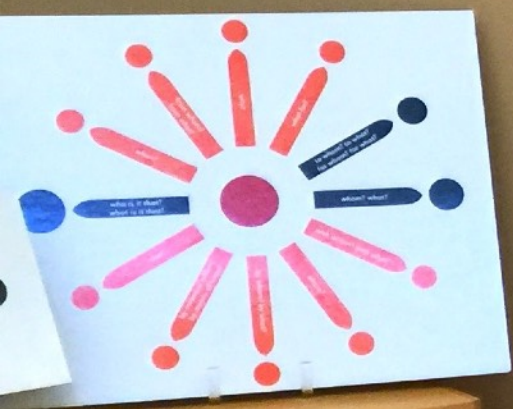














Plants
and
Animals

SILENCE

People at work









SILENCE

Living
and
Non-living

Plant
and
Animals





How about adding other materials?

Such as:

- Supplemental Materials
- Non-Montessori Materials
- Toys
- Support
- Others

There is a Principle

The Law of the Conservation of the Materials:

To the greatest possible extent, conserve the standard set of Montessori materials.

This means to avoid adding materials or subtracting materials from the usual approved set.



Of Course, There Are Exceptions To That Law

Only add new material, if it addresses an important Direct Aim (outcome) that cannot be met by the usual Montessori materials.

This means :

We should carefully examine the existing Montessori materials to determine if that aim can be creatively addressed with them. This will probably mean:

- Using the materials in a new way.
- Using any one material for several purposes
- Extending the use of existing materials

An example is *Symmetry*.

The goal is always to use an existing Montessori material if possible, and if it is not a misuse.

What to avoid!

Never add new material to a classroom, if that aim is already addressed by one or more existing Montessori materials. In other words, never duplicate a concept that is already addressed.

Instead represent the material in a new or creative way.

Examples: teens or counting

Do not put material in a classroom because you think that it is cute, attractive, interesting, charming, or fun. Instead remember that it must address an aim that cannot be addressed by existing material.



Especially

Avoid

- Adding new material just because you see it elsewhere, like in conventional schools
 - Seasonal or holiday themed exercises
 - Cluttering your shelves with extra “stuff”
 - Putting something out because it is “cool”
 - Material that is too directive
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If You Do Add New Material:

You could follow a pattern that is already in use. This might be something like:

- Classified Nomenclature Material
 - Impressionistic Charts
 - Three-part Cards
 - Classification material
 - Pairing or matching material
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Look at the Qualities of the New Material

Does it have:

- Color coding
- Shape coding
- Control of error
- Isolation of difficulty
- A Clear Aim
- Beauty

Is it :

- A Materialized Abstraction
- Concrete to abstract
- Whole to parts
- Simple to complex
- Part of a Sequence