

## Appendix A - Montessori Glossary

### Grace & Courtesy

Your child has a need to know and to absorb the social structures in order to be more at ease in the environment. These lessons give your child the vocabulary, actions, and steps required to build the awareness and responsiveness of those around them. This in turn gives your child a better sense of social orientation.

### Handwriting

The skill of writing is a practical skill that also enables the child to write creatively. Through indirect preparation by using materials the child will be able to make his own personal expressions and put his own thoughts on paper. Writing is a complete act that requires intellectual process combined with manual dexterity and is the ability to express thoughts with graphic symbols. Activities that make this possible were of special interest to Montessori, who realized the great importance of indirect preparation: your child had prepared the hand and mind to then be able to write. When all of the components of language come together and your child realizes they can write is what Montessori called an "explosive phenomenon".

### Metal Insets

Ten metal frames with geometric insets. The child learns how to grip and guide the pencil.

### Moveable Alphabet

A box containing the letters of the alphabet stamped out in plastic. The child thinks of words, analyses them into component sounds and takes corresponding letters out of the alphabet box and places them, in order onto a mat. The aim of this stage is to encourage the child to express his/ her thoughts in a graphic form. Movable Alphabet work progresses from single words to phrases, sentences and finally stories.

### Puzzle Words

These are cards with words "which seem to be unique" These words are presented as a whole. They are non-phonetic words, e.g. want, what, two.

### Phonograms / Double Sounds

These are digraphs that have two letters that represent a new sound not presented in the single sandpaper letters e.g. 'ai' in aim, 'ar' in car, 'oa' in boat, 'th' in moth, 'oy' in boy.

### Reading Folders

A series of folders, each folder representing one of the key sounds of the English language that can be written in more than one way e.g. "er", "or", "ee", "ou" etc.

### Bead Chains

A sensorial representation of the squares and cubes of numbers from 1x 1 to 10 x 10 x 10. Children can use this material for skip counting.

### Control Charts

The memorization of the essential combinations in addition. The various charts give the possibility of repetition, which helps to fix these in the memory of the child.

### Dot Game

An addition game that requires the child to focus on carrying, after reaching ten.

### Fractions Circles

A sensorial material designed to introduce the child to the concept of fractions. Ten matching circular frames with ten circular insets divided into halves, thirds, up to tenths.

### Group 1 and 2 Mathematics

All activities use concrete materials. Children first learn counting to ten, then teen numbers and systematically progress to learning how to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems.

### Golden Beads / Formation of Numbers

Introduction to the decimal system and numeration up to 9,999.

### Stamp Game

Coloured wooden tiles representing the decimal hierarchy, units, tens, hundreds and thousands. The children are able to perform all 4 mathematical operations, both static and dynamic, with this material.

**Small Bead Frame**

The children are able to perform addition, subtraction and multiplication using a frame with coloured beads representing each hierarchy.

**Word Problems**

Cards with word problems written on them to help your child connect the arithmetic problems to real life and illustrate practical problems.

**Binomial Cube**

A cube of eight wooden blocks which fit together in a binomial pattern  $(a + b)^3$ .

**Botany Cabinet**

A wooden cabinet with three drawers containing the forms of the leaves. Visual discrimination of forms and preparation for botany.

**Constructive Triangles**

Constructive Triangles are used to demonstrate that all plane geometric figures can be constructed from triangles.

**Geometric Cabinet**

A material that introduces the child to two dimensional geometric shapes and their names.

**Puzzle Maps**

Puzzles of each continent aiding visual recognition and recall of the continents, oceans, hemispheres.

**Square of Pythagoras**

A first sensorial representation of the times tables. The coloured rectangles and squares are the same as the bead materials. The tables represented are from  $1 \times 1$ , all the way up to  $10 \times 10$ .

**Trinomial Cube**

A cube of twenty seven wooden blocks. Once assembled they form the cube of trinomial  $(a+b+c)^3$ .