



## Montessori in the Woods - CURRICULUM SERIES

Last week we talked about SPL, so what do the students do with that knowledge? Of course it's all leading into reading and writing. We will concentrate on writing first. As mentioned, when a student knows all vowels and 8-10 consonants, he/she can start working with the moveable alphabet.

### Movable Alphabet

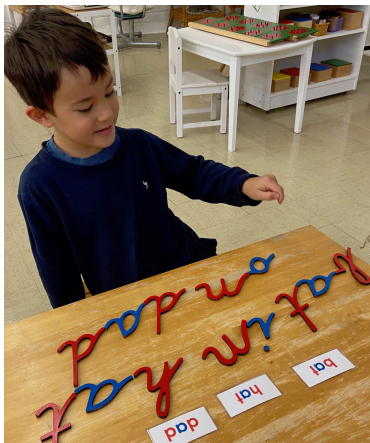


There are 2 wooden boxes containing loose cursive letters; each letter in its own compartment.

The child will choose a phonetic object and place the sounds that he/she hears on the tray. We do not interfere, correct. This is how they start writing. They can only start this if they hear the sounds. Mechanical memorization and spelling of words is not what we are after. We focus on understanding of the language. The idea here is to see how the placement of sounds goes, and eventually how it connects. This work is very tangible and really supports their need to touch and movement, and it's so lovely how they are constructing words without the worry of spelling. They also do not read it after themselves and we do not ask them to read it.

We also have small moveable alphabet, it is the same idea but much smaller and all black letters, this box is usually brought to the table where one works for more advanced work.

The moveable alphabet is used anytime children want to write but are unable to write yet. It is also used when they can already write or are in the process of writing but would like to write it first with the moveable alphabet. They also use it when learning phonograms or puzzle words.



## Metal Insets

Another key material used for training in writing is Metal insets. It is a set of 10 geometric shapes, color pencils and trays with pencil holders and square paper.



There are series of presentations spanning from age 3.5, usually closer to 4, depending on the child's ability to hold pencil and to have enough strength to trace and hold the shape (not as easy as you might think) to age 5-5.5. The presentations vary in difficulty. This amazing material prepares the child for writing, it helps with focus, endurance and patience. If this is done frequently, then writing letters and words on paper, when the child is ready, is almost effortless. However, the child must practice and repeat. This work is fun, and it's artistic. Writing on paper can be scary and intimidating, so this work provides great preparation. So, when your child is bringing metal insets work home, know that even though they are not writing yet, they are preparing and practicing, and their hand is getting amazing workout by working with this amazing piece of material!!



### AT HOME

Play sound games to encourage hearing sounds in words. Read as much as possible.

For the hand, any kind of handiwork, anything that gets the wrist, fingers and hand a good workout. Never force or coerce your child into colouring or writing, if they do not enjoy it or if they are not writing at school yet (e.g. if grandparents/relatives want them to print letters or write their name). You can explain how your child is learning at school and ask them to support it and respect their own developmental journey. It's priceless to see any child working methodically and progressing step by step and to arrive to a point of suddenly writing or suddenly reading on their own.