

A note about Practical Life in the home:

Practical life work is the foundation of using Montessori in the classroom, and it can be pivotal in your home life as well! We have included some ideas and some pictures to get you started at home. First, think about what you are already doing at home that you can engage in with your child, or that he or she can do independently. Getting your kiddos involved in the kitchen, in cleaning, in self-care, in the real and meaningful work that is taking place in your home is exactly the type of activity that your child naturally craves. It gives them joy when they can actively contribute to the big world around them, and it will make this time in social isolation at home easier for everyone to navigate!



Also note: this desire and the child's ability to do practical life work at home doesn't just magically appear one day. It slowly builds over time. With everything that is happening during this pandemic- take it easy on yourself and your kiddos and above all- use this opportunity to connect and enjoy your wonderful kiddos.



Practical life @ home tips from the teachers:

Kitchen:

Baking (think cookies, banana bread, muffins- comfort food wins!), food prep, cooking family dinner, setting the table, flower arrangement, sweeping the floor, sorting the trash & recycling, folding a napkin (there are SO many variations and you could learn many different folds!), washing dishes, using a knife, sifting flour, measuring ingredients, buttering bread, cracking an egg, mixing with a wooden spoon, serving others at the table, clearing the table, putting silverware away, polishing silver (kids LOVE this! You can use toothpaste with a little polishing cloth and VOILA!).

Bathroom:

Make toothbrush, tooth paste, hair brush, mirror, toilet paper, wash cloth, etc. easy to access for your kiddo to foster independence.

Outside:

Do you garden? Do you sweep your stairs?
Get your kiddos involved in the care of your home. Some good things to have around are child sized gardening gloves, small broom/ snow shovel/rake, watering can.



Bedroom:

Making the bed, washing and folding laundry, dressing him or herself, cleaning up toys and organizing dirty clothes. (Having the child's clothes easily accessible is helpful. Put away all options that are not weather appropriate so the options are limited to what you want him or her to wear.)

Hobbies:

Introduce your kids to your hobbies and help them find hobbies of their own. Sewing, knitting, even fly tying, are great for finger dexterity and kids can be proud of their accomplishments!

