**Life Skills:**

The following ideas can be used for teaching skills that prepare the child for everyday life. Initially, these may be simple (as outlined below e.g. ‘writing their name’, or ‘mending buttons’), while an older child capable of higher levels of competency will progress to more advanced skills (e.g. calligraphy & letter writing; or dress designing, cutting out a pattern, and sewing a garment)

* Making a bed;
* Writing their name;
* Memorising their birth date, parents' names, address, phone number.  (Slowly, carefully);
* Setting a table, clearing and cleaning;
* Putting shoes on correctly, tying laces;
* Cleaning: sweeping, vacuuming properly, washing up, drying up, sorting clothes into ‘lights and darks’ or ‘whites & colours’, hand-washing, hanging out washing (for younger children, you might set up a piece of rope between two trees at an appropriate height.);
* Mending buttons;
* Lifting a chair quietly and carefully;
* Opening and closing drawers, so they don't fall out or hurt small fingers;
* Answering the telephone politely, recording/relaying messages/information correctly;
* Practising hospitality by greeting strangers, welcoming guests, serving refreshments;