



The Montessori Writing Curriculum Series:

4-Part Series: 11/11 – Direct & Indirect Preparation from Birth to 3

11/18 – From Spoken Language to Writing in Children's House

12/2 – Discovering the Precision and Power of Writing in Elementary

12/9 – Finding One's Written Voice to Explore, Express and Connect

Discovering the Precision and Power of Writing in Elementary

12/2/2016

Key Understandings

- Child4-Planes of Development are central to Montessori Curriculum across the continuum. (Characteristics of the 2nd plane child)
- Our goals are not to only to bring to the child experiences that help her acquire the following practical skills and knowledge, but to also those experiences that stir her natural wonder, inspire exploration of the power of language and bring her in touch with humanity.

History of Language

- Hand Timeline
- Story of Communication and Signs
- Stories of Spoken Language

Mechanics & Structure

- Mechanics at the Elementary shifts from preparation of the hand as a tool for writing to understanding the rules for writing – capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar and sentence structure.
- Refinement of handwriting
- Capitalization & punctuation
- Word study/spelling
- Grammar
 - Understanding the structure of language reveals its power and precision

- 9 parts of speech – nouns, adjectives, articles, verbs, prepositions, adverbs, pronouns, conjunctions, interjections
 - Functions, classifications, exploration of writing style
- Sentence Structure
 - Concept of a complete sentence
 - Parts of the simple – predicate, subject, direct & indirect object, adverbial modifiers, attributives and appositives, prepositional phrases
 - Compound and complex construction
 - Clauses sentence Identifies the subject and the predicate and their function
 - Exploration of sentence structure related to writing style

Writing Skills

- Sentence to paragraph to multi-paragraph writing
- Booklets and timelines
- Small group and individual researches
- Persuasive, opinion and expository essays
- Creative Writing
 - Elements of poetry – line, stanza, meter, rhyme, imagery, compression, music
 - Elements of fiction – character, plot conflict, setting, plausibility and character change
 - Genres – memoirs, short stories and poetry (free verse, haiku, cinquapin)
 - Literature studies; Great Books

Spoken Language/Oral Communication

- Presentations
- Group discussions
- Poetry/literature recitations, dramatic scripts & music lyrics.

Elementary Outcomes (See handout.)

How do you know if my child is struggling or delayed?

- Speech and motor development
- Writing fluency
- Reading development
- Emotional response to writing, avoidance, anxiety, discouragement

What can I do to support my child's writing development?

- Continue to provide an oral/aural rich environment.
 - Conversations – dinner times, bedtimes, family meetings, etc.

