

The Sequence & Order of Practical Life Materials

in the North American Children's House (Ages 3 to 6)

Practical Life means purposeful work that humans need to do to support our daily lives physically and socially.

Remember that the order always goes from left to right, top to bottom. Begin on the top left of the shelf and proceed accordingly. Prepare yourself to use all of the materials and present them *in the order* you have them arranged on the shelves. The children absorb this external order. They will come to expect to receive presentations according to this order. It is critical to their full development.

Preliminary Exercises

- Apron (folded on a shelf; just used for putting on, taking off, and folding)
- Tissues (for nose blowing lessons)
- A book (how to carry, turn page, where to read, etc.)
- Clothespins and something to clip them on (if you use them for hanging cloths/art work)
- Small pitcher in small pail with a cloth/sponge (to practice filling at the sink and emptying)
- Sponge squeezing
- Opening & closing (choose containers that match the ones they bring for lunch)
- A picture of a restaurant (to remind you to give lunch grace & courtesy lessons)
- A picture of the outdoor environment/playground (to remind you to give G&C lessons)
- A picture of children carrying a table (to remind you to give G&C lessons on carrying)

Art (can be considered part of Language or PL)

- Clay
- Crayons on paper
- Colored chalk on paper
- Folding paper
- Cutting paper with scissors
- Chalkboard
- Easel painting
- Art drying rack
- Pasting/gluing on paper
- Tape
- Stapling
- Making books

Care of Self

- Pouring Progression: Rice, Water, Stem Glass, Different Containers, Cup, saucer
- Hand washing (at sink)
- Hand washing: full work
- Dressing Frames
- Dressing: hook with a cardigan that buttons and a vest that zips to practice dressing
- Shoe cleaning and/or polishing (based on your children's shoes and local culture)
- Knife progression: spreading jam, cut/spread butter/cream cheese; cut banana/tofu; cut bread/cake; cut pickles; cut apples; cut carrots
- Sewing progression: lacing cards; threading needle; sewing button; sewing shape; sewing seam; weaving; embroidery/cross-stitch
- Tools: screwdriver board, bolt board, nuts & bolts, lock & key, hammering

Care of Environment

- Dusting (lambswool and small brush for shelf/tray corners)
- Sweeping: dustpan/brush, broom, carpet sweeper
- Folding: lined cloths; unlined cloths; baby clothes/socks
- Sponge (at sink for random spills)
- Mop/bucket
- Chalkboard washing
- Easel washing
- Floor washing
- Mirror Washing
- Table sponging
- Table Scrubbing
- Pet care
- Polishing: Wood, Metal
- Plant care: watering can, washing leaf, misting, changing vase water, removing dead leaves
- Flower arranging

Control of Movement

- Ellipse
- CD player and line music
- Bell
- Blindfold

Adult Environment

- Storage for personal items (purse, coat, phone, coffee, ...)
- Storage for didactic materials (what you'll rotate)
- Storage for consumables (cotton balls, paper towels, cups, napkins, polish)
- Holding pen for broken/damaged items
- Locations for notes coming from/going to home
- Observation chair