

May 2015

{Notes} I would love to see how Sam likes practical life work in the kitchen. In a Montessori classroom these lessons would be on a tray left out for the child to choose when to work with them. In the home, we ask our children to retrieve the materials when we start the process. You can also gather the materials for him if it makes the lesson a little easier for you.

For this set of lessons I touched on a bunch of subjects. Art, music, math, science, language, and beginning sewing. All of them have a purpose beyond just the lesson you see. They work on fine motor skills, concentration, following directions, and gross motor skills among a myriad of others. I know he will love them all, but please do let me know what he likes most and I'll be sure to send follow on lessons next time to keep his interest going. I'm happy to send them to you earlier if you want to keep the momentum going. Just send me a message! :)

Lesson 1: Banana Snack Prep

Materials Needed:

- Banana
- Cutting board
- Butter knife
- Small bowl or plate

Focus: Practical life, fine motor, listening to directions



Lesson: Ask Sam to gather all the materials needed to one area in the kitchen. Demonstrate how to cut the banana with as little words as possible. He is learning from watching on this lessons. Then ask if he would like a try.



As he works through this, try your best to allow him to learn through any mistakes. He is refining his fine motor skills here along with feeling the accomplishment of making a snack for himself.

Lesson 2: Sorting Socks

Materials Needed:

- 3-4 pairs of unmatched sock

Focus: Matching, Recognizing colors and differences, Practical life

Lesson: Put all the pairs of unmatched socks in a basket. You may use the mat or just an open space on the floor. Demonstrate pulling out one sock at a time. Notice aloud the size, color, and anything other features like a stripe. Pause between each sock to give Sam time to process the descriptions. After all the socks are matched, ask Sam to help you put them away where you store socks.

Lesson 3: Sniping Yarn

{Note} This is from the book [Sewing in the Montessori Classroom](#).

Materials Needed:

- Baby food jar with a hole punched in the lid or other similar sized container
- A ball of yarn
- Child size scissors
- Tray with a small empty basket
- Large basket for snippings

Focus: Fine Motor, Beginning Sewing, Scissor skills, Coordination

Lesson: Excerpt from *Sewing in the Montessori Classroom*

1. The ball of yarn should be inside the jar with the end of the yarn coming through the lid.
2. Invite the child to the lesson and take the tray to the table.
3. Grasp the end of the yarn with the subdominant hand.
4. Pull the end of the yarn to the edge of the tray.
5. Pick up the scissors with the dominant hand.
6. Cut the yarn into small pieces working from left to right, placing the snippings into the small basket on the tray. Show the child how to make the last cut right next to the side of the baby food jar, not the hole. That allows a short tail of yarn to remain showing through the hole.
7. Repeat.
8. Empty the small basket of snipping into the collection basket on the shelf.
9. Invite the child to try.

Lesson 4: [DIY Kazoo](#)

Materials Needed:

- Old toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Wax paper
- Rubberband
- Sharp pencil to poke holes
- Paint or decorating supplies (optional)

Focus: Crafts, Music, Science

Lesson: Find the [complete instructions with pictures here](#).

Lesson 5: Water Transfer with Baster

Materials Needed:

- Tray
- Baster
- Two bowls
- Sponge
- Apron

Focus: Fine Motor, Practical Life

Lesson: Since Sam was interested in the water transfer, here is a follow on lesson. Ask Sam to put on an apron to keep his clothes from getting wet. Aprons help the child understand that they are doing is work and is a way to define work time. We will use an apron a lot while cooking so if you don't have an apron for Sam, now may be a good time to get one. My mother in law made the ones my kids use.

Present the lesson with the least amount of talking as possible. If you are ok with it, you can let Sam [watch this video of a little girl doing transfer work with a baster](#). In the classroom, children would watch each other as an example of how to complete lessons. After all the work is done, ask Sam to use the sponge to clean up any water that may have spilled.

Lesson 6: Sorting Largest to Smallest

Materials Needed:

- [Largest to smallest cards](#) and board
- Basket
- Tray

Focus: Math, Reading readiness, Vocabulary

Lesson:

Print out and laminate the largest to smallest cards and board.

Place the cards in the basket and the board on the tray. Take out one card and demonstrate how to find the correct match. This can be done the same way as you [present the 3 part cards](#). This demonstration should be done with the least amount of talking.

After the sorting is finished, you can talk about which is the smallest and which is the next biggest and so on. You can use words like small, medium, and large to describe the size. This will really build his vocabulary and spatial recognition.

Lesson 7: Cloud Dough

Materials Needed:

- 1 Cup Baby Oil
- 8 Cups Flour
- Large Mixing Bowl
- Small Bin
- Small cups
- Straws
- Spoons
- Cookie Cutters

Focus: Sensory

Lesson: Add the baby oil and flour in the large bowl and mix well. You can use a pastry cutter to mix it well. Transfer mixed dough into a small bin and add the cups, straws, spoons, cookie cutters, and any other items you can think of to work with cloud dough.

Lesson 8: [Objects of the Environment](#)

Materials Needed:

- 3 objects to teach (floor, ceiling, wall or lamp, bucket, sponge or any other objects)

Focus: Vocabulary

Lesson: [Find the detailed instructions here](#). I find I can do this while we are sitting on the couch or outside enjoying the day. Remember the lesson you are reading is for a classroom, so we have a little flexibility since we are at home.

Lesson 9: Ocean Animals Sensory Bin

Materials Needed:

- Small Bin
- Magnifying Glass
- Water
- Medium Rocks
- Seaweed/Under water plants (from pet store)
- [Safari Toob Ocean Animals](#)

Focus: Science, Fine Motor, Sensory

Lesson: It's probably best to do this lesson outside. Start by adding the rocks and the seaweed to the small bin. Then add water and animals. Allow Sam to explore with magnifying glass. You can leave this together for a while and get the most out of your little ocean habitat.

Lesson 10: Stories and Rhymes

Materials Needed:

- Child's rhyme book like [Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young](#)

Focus: History, beginning language

Lesson: Read out loud 3-5 traditional children's rhymes. Reading traditional rhymes will give Sam a bit of history along with developing early language skills. Using finger plays will also help keep his attention. If you want to know the history behind a certain rhyme he likes let me know. It is always fun to know why something was written.

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