

PRIMARY WEEKLY PLAN

Week Five: April 27 - May 1, 2020

PRACTICAL LIFE

- [Teach your child how to care for things in their environment](#) while developing their focus, concentration, coordination of movement and independence by washing a table, chair or other things in your home or yard.
- Explore the wonders of buoyancy. You will need to gather: a large bowl half filled with water, a small towel for drying, and a tray/large towel to put underneath. (See below.) Explore your home to find 5 - 10 small objects that will fit inside your large bowl. Pose this question: "I wonder which objects will float or which will sink? What do you think?"
 - Place one object at a time in the water and discover what it does.
 - Separate to one side of the bowl those that floated, to the other side, those that sank.
 - Use your small towel to dry your objects when you are ready to clean up.
 - Leave the same objects for another turn and see if your child can remember what happened.
 - Extend the experiment by figuring out why each object did what it did.



- Let it shine! To polish a small mirror, you will need a basket to hold: a bottle of polish or water, a small dish/bowl, cotton swab, small flannel cloth, small brush, small sponge, small mat, and a handheld or small mirror.
 - Arrange materials on a small mat following the order of use from left to right: bottle, dish/bowl, cotton swab, cloth, brush, sponge.
 - Pour a small amount of polish in the dish.
 - Dip the cotton swab in the polish and apply to the object to be polished. Apply using circular motions. Leave the object to dry while you throw out the swab.
 - Use the cloth to scrub polish until the object is shiny. If there are portions with more polish, use the brush and rub with the cloth again.
 - Look in the mirror to see how clean it is!
 - Put the dirtied cloth in a hamper. (Replace with a clean cloth so this work can be repeated.)
 - Use the sponge to clean the dish/bowl. Rinse.
 - Use the sponge to clean the mat from left to right with an up/down movement.
 - Replace the objects back in the basket and the shelf. Repeat often.
- Create a simple activity to develop and challenge fine motor skills. Use an object or two with a hole in the center, such as masking tape or a bracelet. Pick out an assortment of differently sized objects, such as a fork, pencil, cotton swab, paperclip, coin, and marble. Pass the objects from one hand to the other through the holes without knocking anything down or touching the sides. This activity can easily be left in a basket on your home Montessori shelf for further practice.



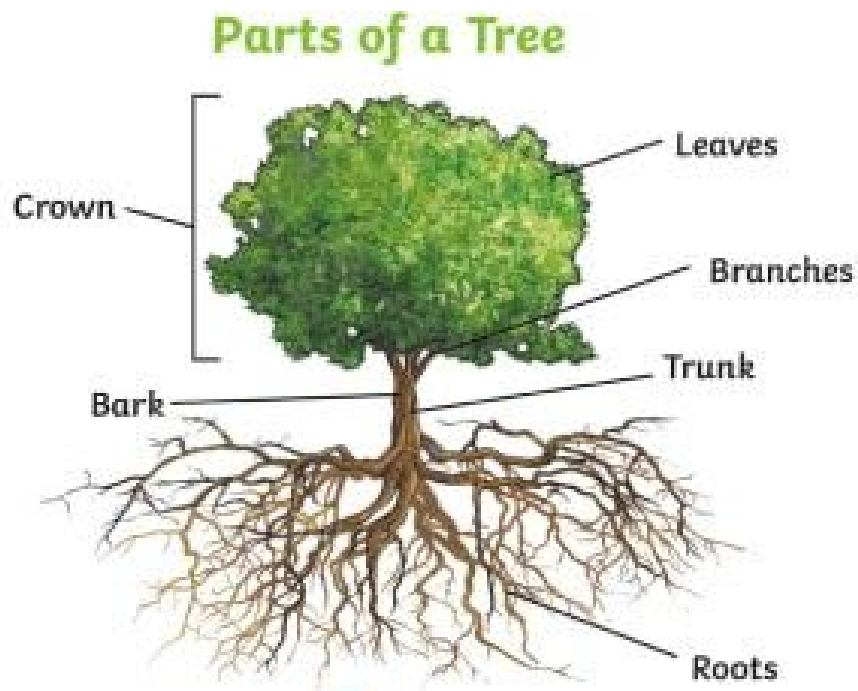
SENORIAL

- Help your child refine their olfactory sense by making Smelling Bottles at home. Place drops of orange, tea tree oil, vinegar, lavender or flowers/ herbs from your garden on a cotton ball for each of the different scents. Watch [this video](#) to learn how to play the matching game.
- The Ultimate 3D Memory Game. You will need 5 - 10 objects, a partner, and an open space. Pick 3 of your objects, name them as you set them down, and invite your child to close their eyes while you remove one object. Ask your child, "Can you remember the object missing?" To increase difficulty add more objects. Return the favor – you close your eyes and try to remember.
- If you have them, use your MagnaTiles to make a cube, square, pyramid, tetrahedron, rectangular prism, and a triangular prism. A child who writes could make labels for them.
- Make your own moldable, squishable, kinetic sand for sensory play. You can make it in advance OR better yet, have your child help. You will need: 1 cup of play or craft sand; 2 teaspoons dish soap; two tablespoons cornstarch; and ½ cup school glue (white or clear).
 - Combine play sand, dish soap, and cornstarch in your chosen container and stir until all ingredients are mixed well.
 - Add the glue a little at a time, stirring well after each addition.
 - Once all the ingredients are mixed, put the spoon aside and knead with your hands to finish the process.
 - Add hands, scoops, spoons, cups, or cookie cutters and let your child's imagination lead the way.
 - Store in a covered container; this should keep well for several weeks.



LANGUAGE

- Charades is a fun game to play! Make categories of animals: jungle, farm, safari, sea, etc. Use pictures, draw on pieces of paper or write their names. Pick 1 and act it out. Guess what it is. Take turns.
- Let's talk about butterflies!
 - Learn the language associated with the Life Cycle of a Butterfly by listening to [this song](#).
 - Watch [this video](#) to see a butterfly emerge before your very eyes.
 - Consider raising your own butterfly, [here's how!](#)
 - Check out the "Make Your Own Butterfly" activity in the Self-Expression section of this week's DLP.
- See that tree outside? Let's name its parts. You'll need paper, a writing pencil, and color pencils. As you begin drawing your tree, offer the appropriate vocabulary to name each part. Pick one part of the tree and invite your child to color it, while repeating the name. Proceed with all parts of your tree. For an older child: invite your child to draw and label all parts. Then go out and compare your drawing to the real thing.



- Instantly access over 40,000 books, audiobooks, and videos through the [Epic](#) digital library. There are no pop-ups or ads, and access is free for one month with sign up. To help support families during distance learning, Epic is providing educators with the ability to offer free remote access to the platform to their students through June 30th. If you are interested in extending beyond the month long free trial, please email Aidan's librarian, [Nell Stewart](#).

MATH

- For older children: Play a numbers game by using the numbers 1-9 and a Tic-Tac-Toe grid to find combinations that equal 15. Learn how by watching [this video](#).
- The Spindle Boxes are a great way to introduce the concept of quantity. You can even make your own version of this at home! All you need is a tray with a strip of paper with the numbers 0 - 9 in chronological order written across the top. (Space them about 4" apart.) Place 45 nails, straws, or chopsticks in a box/basket with 8 twist ties or strings. Follow the instructions below or [watch this lesson from Ms. Hernandez](#).
 - Point to each number and say its name. Point out 0 means nothing, but that it is a very important number.
 - Point to 1, say the number and pick out 1 nail and place below the number.
 - Point to 2, say the number and pick out 2 nails, one at a time, and combine together with a twist tie or string and place beneath the 2.
 - Do the same with the rest of the numbers up to nine.
 - When done, point to 0 and repeat that it means nothing so it doesn't have any objects under it. Reiterate that it is a very important number.
- Work on counting using the Cards and Counters. Follow the instructions below or [watch this lesson from Ms. Hernandez](#).
 - Write the numerals 0 – 10 on small pieces of paper, and gather 55 similar objects like pasta, buttons, beans, pebbles, etc.
 - Invite your child to set all numbers in a row on their workspace (mat or table), starting with 0 and ending with 10.
 - Count each number, emphasizing that 0 means nothing.
 - Build each corresponding number with the items, creating a column below each number.
 - Leave this out on your shelf for repetition.
- Subtraction Squish is a hands-on, math activity that incorporates sensory play. Use a long piece of masking tape on a flat surface to create a number line through 18 (or lower/higher). Grab some play dough and make that many balls. Here's our example: $14 - 8 = 6$. Begin by placing 14 balls under a corresponding number on your line (you started with; the minuend). Squish 8 balls with your finger (take away; the subtrahend). Look at the remaining un-flattened spheres to find 6 not squished (left over; the difference). You can either ask subtraction problems aloud, or write them down on some index cards for independent work. Reconfigure the balls and repeat.



CULTURAL

- Bring to a mat or table a replica or picture of a landmark from different countries. For example, the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids, Big Ben, or the Great Wall of China.
 - Say its name. “This is the Eiffel Tower.”
 - Describe facts about it. Where in the world is it, when was it made, how tall is it?
 - Leave it on the shelf for a while. Draw a picture of it. The older children may write a story about it if they want.
- Make your own “Labelling the Continents” activity with this free [Montessori world map](#). Then download free [globe, continent, and ocean labels](#) from Montessori Print Shop. Children who are not yet reading can use the color-coded or picture labels for the continents and oceans to match accurately. If your child needs it, there is a control map to compare the labels to the words on the map.



- We’re visiting Europe this week to take a deeper look and learn more about animals, natural resources, and landmarks. Learn more about Europe [here](#).
- You’ll need a magazine or old book, scissors, and a work mat to categorize Living and Nonliving things.
 - Define and discuss.
 - Living: it can move, grow, reproduce, and breath.
 - Nonliving: things that don’t have life in them, can’t move on their own.
 - Cut out pictures and once you have collected a few of each, invite your child to sort them based on their category.



MOVEMENT

- Play “Mom or Dad Says”- just like *Simon Says*. Mix it up and have your child take a turn at Name Says. Be creative and have fun!
- Use what you have at home to create “obstacle courses.” Map out a space in your home (it does not need to be big). Create a starting line. Use a pose (like a yoga animal) to start. End with some dance moves. Here are some examples:
 - Balance: walk over couch cushions on the floor.
 - Crawling: put sheets over chairs to create tunnels.
 - Walking: place paper circles on the floor to follow.
 - Jumping: lay a broom handle on the floor to jump over.
 - Coordination: place stuffed animals on the floor to zig zag through.
- Combine graceful, slow movements with safety.
 - Learn how to carry scissors or other sharp objects with care.
 - Close the scissors
 - Pick up scissors on the cutting edge and hold it tightly in the fist of one hand.
 - Keep it close to the chest as you walk carefully across the room.
 - Walk back and return in its proper place.
 - Variation: How to hand a pair of scissors or a sharp object to someone.
 - Hold the cutting edge of the scissors in the fist of one hand.
 - Point the handle to the person you are giving it to.
 - Slowly open your fist and let the other person take it from you.
- Come up with an exercise plan to do with your child, make it part of the routine, and if possible, have it happen at the same time each day. (Recess was usually from 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM.) Draw pictures or print sentences describing each exercise and allow your child to put them in the order of their choice. For ideas, check out Mr. Katinas’ Primary PE activities on the [Specials](#) page or use a chart like [this](#).

SELF-EXPRESSION

- Use materials around your house or from nature to do [these fun art/craft activities](#).
- Mail a Hug - You'll need a roll of paper or 6 plain pieces of copy paper, tape, colored pencils or markers, scissors, and a large envelope. Have your child lay down on the paper while you trace their head and outstretched arms. Invite them to decorate their body and cut it out. Fold your hug and place it inside an envelope. Mail as many hugs as you can!



MAIL A HUG

An easy way for kids to brighten the day of a friend or loved one that they don't see often!



- Poetry can be a great source for learning about dramatic expression. Pick a favorite poem that will make an impression on your child. (We highly recommend anything by Shel Silverstein.) Memorize one and recite it together. Use gestures to emote, volume to astonish and exaggeration to convey meaning. For an older child, encourage them to write a poem (long or short) and recite it for the family. Decide on the theme for the poem to write or as a variation, write one about a favorite toy, the garden, flowers, a favorite person.
- Have you studied butterflies in the Language section this week? Yes, well now transform coffee filters into butterflies to make a beautiful spring craft. You will need: coffee filters, waxed paper, washable markers, pipe cleaners, a spray bottle or paintbrush, and water.
 - Start out with a round coffee filter, or if you are using a basket filter, flatten it out.
 - Draw lines, shapes, and patterns all over the coffee filter using washable markers.
 - Place the filter on a sheet of wax paper and either spray or paint over it with water so the colors run and mix.
 - Let dry, then create a pair of butterfly wings by pinching the filter in the middle. Fold a pipe cleaner in half (or use only $\frac{1}{2}$ a pipe cleaner if your filters are small) and twist it around the middle of the coffee filter wings. The point where you twist the pipe cleaner marks the body while the ends become the butterfly's curled antennae.
 - To finish, arrange and spread the butterfly's wings.



SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE & ROUTINE

- Create an area for extra supplies: plain paper, paper with lines, colored paper, pencil, crayons, etc. and a cart or box for storage. If your child runs out of (paper, pencil, glue), they can independently fetch what they need without disturbing you. Additionally, your child can be responsible for replenishing supplies at the end of each day.
- Learn how to [help your child to become more independent with these 8 easy steps](#):
 - Give notice.
 - Identify opportunities.
 - Target priorities.
 - Make time.
 - Negotiate compromise.
 - Forget perfection.
 - Praise something.
 - Consider circumstances.
- Follow the established routine from Week One of the DLP. If your child (or you) does not remember it, draw a picture of the activities and post them on the wall or fridge. An alternative is to take pictures of your child while they are doing the work and arrange the photos sequentially. An older child may write the list and post it in a predominant place for reference. Need additional support, check out [this article](#) from the Parent Resources section.
- Help your child understand what to do when they need your attention - without interrupting you. Establish a non-verbal signal together, such as placing a hand on your arm or shoulder. When you touch your child's hand, it acknowledges they have a need but means, "I will be with you as soon as I can." Your child can continue to wait at your side without speaking, or go back to what they were doing until you are ready. It might take a bit of practice, but the children are familiar with this lesson in patience from being in the classroom.