

## **Montessori at Home**

As your child's first and most significant teacher, you may often wonder, how to support your child's Montessori education at home. There are several easy ways to aid your child's social development as she is growing and learning. Your child's innate motivation to learn will appear through your positive encouragement. It is first helpful for the parent to understand the golden rules followed by Montessori methodology:

- To allow freedom within limits
- To respect the individuality of the child
- To resist imposing your own will and personality on the child.

For the youngest of children, parents can begin to "set" the child up for independence. This is a vital step towards your youngster becoming a self-directed, independent learner. By fostering strategic work at home, you will see your child not only become more independent, but also feel a sense of intrinsic pride and support to your family unit. The following is a simple guide of some expected activities for children to be empowered to complete, at home, on a regular basis:

<b><i>Age Level</i></b>	<b><i>Tasks</i></b>
Toddler	Dressing oneself; setting the table; loading the dishwasher; sorting & folding laundry; putting clean laundry away; picking up toys directly after playing with them
Primary	All of the above, in addition to: Dressing himself – including shoes, socks and outdoor gear; setting the table; loading the dishwasher, washing and drying dishes; sorting laundry; dusting furniture; sweeping floors; shoveling snow or raking leaves
Lower Elementary	All of the above, in addition to: tying shoes; making a bed; making a packed lunch; helping with cooking tasks; packing & unpacking school bag; putting groceries away
Upper Elementary	All of the above, in addition to: vacuuming floors; washing clothes; cooking; baking; volunteering in the community

Maria Montessori said, **"Little children, from the moment they are weaned, are making their way toward independence." It is our duty as their parents and teachers, to nurture this independence.**

**Parent Resources:**

**Book:** Montessori Play & Learn: A Parents Guide to Purposeful Play from Two to Six  
by: Lesley Britton

**Website:** <http://www.dailymontessori.com/>