

Five Areas of a Montessori Classroom

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A Montessori classroom is divided into 5 curriculum areas:

1. **Practical Life** - This area includes life skills to help develop independence, coordination, concentration, and order. This area includes:
 - Care of Self (e.g., learning to use velcro, zippers, buttons, snaps, etc., food preparation, teeth brushing, etc.)
 - Care of Environment (e.g., table washing, watering plants, taking care of pets, etc.)
 - Grace and Courtesy (e.g., moving gracefully, greetings, manners, social interactions, awareness of others, etc.)
2. **Sensorial** - Dr. Montessori believed that children learn by using all of their senses. These sensorial activities allow the child to refine each of their senses and this area helps to prepare the child for mathematics:
 - Sight (visual)
 - Touch (tactile)
 - Smell (olfactory)
 - Taste (gustatory)
 - Sound (auditory)
 - Stereognostic (kinaesthetic)
3. **Math** - This area uses concrete Montessori materials to help the child learn abstract concepts. Each exercise in the math area builds upon another and the child gradually moves from concrete to abstract areas such as place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and fractions.
4. **Language** - Language Arts in a Montessori classroom is based on phonetic awareness. Children work through specific hands-on and tactile language materials like sandpaper letters, movable alphabets etc. Language is not an isolated topic but runs through the curriculum. Spoken language is the foundation for writing and eventually for reading.
5. **Cultural Studies** - This area allows the child to explore and learn about the world around them and includes:
 - Geography (e.g., continents, landforms, solar system, etc.)
 - Zoology (e.g., classification and physiology of animals, etc.)
 - Botany (e.g., classification and physiology of plants, etc.)
 - History (e.g., timelines, using a calendar, etc.)
 - Science