

Hello all,

Super Simple Shape Sorting Activity



Just wanted to tell you that although I have been missing everyone yet it is of utmost importance that we protect our children and keep safe. So decided to say hello via this e- mail message.

I participated in a webinar this evening on the topic of how to stay connected and what to do with children at home while working from home and juggling with chores as well.

Although children might be enjoying being home, I can imagine how hard it is for all of us to not have consistency in our routines. I am getting used to it myself and it is hard! We all are dealing with times of uncertainty and stress.

What could be a better environment for children to be in than their own home with people who love and care about them the most. The speaker urged the parents to use this as an opportunity to spend quality time when possible and engage them with you and not just 'keep

them busy'. As they may resist this effort, just allow them to freely choose activities they want to do on their own.

I really liked her idea of looking at old photos from vacations, trips or family events and compile a story of what happened on that particular trip. Writing in front of children can motivate them to write and make their own stories.

Making your own imaginary stories...silly or scary!

FaceTiming grandparents, aunts and uncles and listening to their childhood memories is a treasure in itself and research shows that it has profound and lasting impact on children.

I know from our parent conferences that most of the families engage their children in cooking, cleaning, organizing, folding laundry, sweeping & mopping and so forth. The speaker suggested to continue and reinforce the idea that it is our house and we all participate in taking care of the place as well as each other. We can set time to do things together and time for individual/ quiet time. We can include them in deciding what we should make for breakfast or dinner. What ingredients we need? Do we have them in pantry? How much of what we need? Help me carry jars or boxes. Please help chop or cut some vegetables or fruits or mix or stir this or that? These can be very enjoyable and can give us luxury to spend and connect with our children. The time - we don't usually get when we are extremely busy running from one place to another. This all will develop their language skills as well as math which is all about quantities, order, classification, estimation, counting, measurement, etc. which is all embedded in practical life materials - things we do at home. Montessori herself calls home child's prepared environment before they enter an educational setting.

I would like to share a few more ideas such as children can help sorting silverware, shoes, clothes, toys, etc. by color or shape or size.

Also, I found the following activities interesting and can be easily done at home with simple materials.

<https://jdaniel4smom.com/wp-content/uploads/Learning-Shapes-with-Crayons-Printable-Task-Cards.pdf>

Can be done with:

- popsicle sticks
- Pasta
- toothpicks

<https://jdaniel4smom.com/2018/08/building-shapes-with-crayons-stem-task-cards.html>

Stay safe and healthy!
Hamidah