

Options, not commands

“Spiritual Preparation”



Prepared environment

Listening

Freedoms

Independence

Role of the adult

Self-regulation

Modeling

Parenting the Montessori Way!

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Where do we start? Here and Home...



- Appropriate Independence
- Prepared Environment

“We must, therefore, quit our roles as jailers and instead take care to prepare an environment in which we do as little as possible to exhaust the child with our surveillance and instruction.” --Maria Montessori

- Freedom within limits
- “Spiritual Preparation” of the adult



Functional Independence

“Any unnecessary help is an obstacle to development.” - *Maria Montessori*

Do not do for your child what they can do for themselves.

“It is hard but you can do hard things.”

Prepared Environment

- “We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit.”

- Maria Montessori

- Set your child up for functional independence by giving them the tools needed and making those tools accessible to them.

Prepared Environment



In the kitchen



Evolves Over Time



Morning Routine



Children can.



Prepared Outside Environment



Collaborative Environment

- Use positive phrasing (“You can...”/“You may...”/“Let’s...”)
- Limit your use of No so it counts.
- Use brief, matter-of-fact statements about what is acceptable.
- Non-negotiables (i.e. carseat)
- Freedom within limits
- Say what you mean; mean what you say

Collaborative Environment

- Create the 'rules' together
- Validate their feelings (i.e. "I know you have a lot on your plate right now...")
- Team approach (i.e. "Let's see if we can create a plan together on how to keep your room clean. What small things could you do everyday to help keep it tidy? ")
- Tell stories, talk together, learn from one another

“One of parents' most important responsibilities is helping children learn to govern themselves. According to experts, the best parenting combines firm expectations and reasonable freedom for children to make their own choices. When parents provide a good balance between rules and freedom, children learn to act responsibly of their own free will, even when parents aren't around.”

- *Megan Northrup*

Role of the Parent

- *Modeling*
- *Building Trust/ Role of honesty*
- *Be PRESENT and Conscious*
- *Listening...really listening*
- *Encourage Intrinsic Motivation*
- *Believe that everything they say should be valued*

Role of the Parent

- Listen and observe more than we talk.
- Anticipate problems
- Find the teachable moment, keeping dignity intact
- Remind, without nagging
- Ask questions, without intimidating or judging
- Allow problem solving/natural consequences
- Help them understand the 'why'
- Know your child well w/out comparing them to others
- Learn how to nurture the "ah ha" moment
- Never talk ill of your child in or out of their presence

Non-Corrective and Non-Coercive Environment

“The prize and punishments are incentives toward unnatural or forced effort, and therefore we certainly cannot speak of the natural development of the child in connection with them.”

Modeling – walking the walk...

- Moral Development
- Really Listening!
- Being intentional – frontal lobe
- Sharing our stories- good/bad/gray
- Using appropriate language (“I”)
- Technology - do as I do, not just as I say
- Being calm
- Apologies are acceptable!



Live in the Moment!

- Teachable moments come on their own time.
- Our children are not broken – they do not need to be fixed.

“Education should no longer be mostly imparting of knowledge, but must take a new path, seeking the release of human potentialities ”. Maria Montessori

- Take the Challenge – see your child through NEW eyes!

Books and other Resources

- Books to check out in Barbara's space and in many studios
- Talk to your child's teachers
- INFORMontessori Blog
- Whole Child Collaborative

A functional family is an ongoing process.

