

24 Activity *Cards*

Every activity from Module 7 on its own card, with what you need, from what age, and how to present it. Cut them out and pull one when you're out of ideas.

A companion to **The Everyday Montessori Toddler**, 18 months to 3 years.
Print on cardstock. Six cards per page.



Show once, *then step back*

- 1 Pick one card. Set out only what it lists, on a tray or a small table.
- 2 Show it once, slowly, with few words.
- 3 Step back. Do your own thing nearby. Their way of doing it is fine.
- 4 When they lose interest, put it away. Bring it back in a week or two.

SAFETY

Stay close. Use objects too big to swallow until your child no longer puts things in their mouth or nose, and never leave a toddler alone near water.

PRACTICAL LIFE

From 18 mo

Washing vegetables

YOU NEED

A bowl of water, a vegetable brush, potatoes or carrots

HOW

Show once how to scrub, then hand over the brush. Use the vegetables for dinner.

It's real work, and they know it.

PRACTICAL LIFE

From 18 mo

Wiping the table

YOU NEED

A small damp sponge, a few crumbs

HOW

Show one slow wipe from left to right, then let them finish the table.

Keep the sponge on a low hook so they can grab it.

PRACTICAL LIFE

From 2 yrs

Folding washcloths

YOU NEED

A basket of clean washcloths

HOW

Fold one in half slowly, corner to corner. Let them make a pile.

Wonky folds count.

PRACTICAL LIFE

From 2 yrs

Sweeping up

YOU NEED

A small broom and dustpan, a few dry leaves

HOW

Sweep the leaves into a pile, then into the dustpan. Hand over the broom.

A tape square on the floor gives a target.

PRACTICAL LIFE

From 2 yrs

Peeling fruit

YOU NEED

A banana or a clementine, a plate

HOW

Start the peel for them, then let them finish. Eat it together.

A great snack-time job.

PRACTICAL LIFE

From 2½ yrs

Spreading on crackers

YOU NEED

A butter knife, soft cream cheese, crackers

HOW

Show one slow spread, then let them make the rest of the plate.

Mess is part of it.

SENSORY

From 18 mo

Water play with cups and funnels

YOU NEED

A tub or the bath, cups, a funnel, a towel

HOW

Set out the cups and step back. Pouring is the whole activity.

Always stay right there near water.

SENSORY

From 18 mo

Painting with water

YOU NEED

A brush, a cup of water, a sidewalk or fence

HOW

Paint a stroke and watch it fade. Hand over the brush.

Magic for toddlers, zero cleanup.

SENSORY

From 2 yrs

A dry oat tray

YOU NEED

A tray, rolled oats, a scoop and a cup

HOW

Scoop and pour once, then let them explore.

Use oats or large pasta until they stop mouthing.

SENSORY

From 2 yrs

Ice and warm water

YOU NEED

Ice cubes, a bowl of warm water, a spoon

HOW

Drop an ice cube in and watch together. Name what you see, "melting."

Great for new words like cold, warm and smaller.

HANDS AND THINKING

From 18 mo

Posting through a slot

YOU NEED

A container with a slit in the lid, large lids or cards

HOW

Post one, then hand them the next.

Use pieces too big to swallow.

HANDS AND THINKING

From 18 mo

Opening and closing

YOU NEED

Clean jars and boxes with different lids

HOW

Open one slowly, close it again. Line them up and step back.

Twist lids are the hardest.

HANDS AND THINKING

From 18 mo

Knob puzzles

YOU NEED

A 3 to 5 piece knob puzzle

HOW

Take the pieces out one by one, put one back, then pause.

Fewer pieces, more success.

HANDS AND THINKING

From 18 mo

Stacking

YOU NEED

Kitchen cups, blocks or small boxes

HOW

Stack two, then let them build and knock down.

Knocking down is part of the fun.

HANDS AND THINKING

From 2½ yrs

Matching socks

YOU NEED

A small basket of mixed socks

HOW

Find one pair and lay them together. "These two match."

Then they can help with the laundry.

HANDS AND THINKING

From 2½ yrs

Clothespins on a box

YOU NEED

Wooden clothespins, a shoebox

HOW

Pinch one open, clip it on the edge. Let them continue.

Builds the grip for drawing.

ART

From 18 mo

Crayons on big paper

YOU NEED

Chunky crayons, a big sheet taped to the table

HOW

Put the crayons down and let them start. No models to copy.

Describe instead of praising, "Lots of blue!"

ART

From 2 yrs

Tearing and gluing

YOU NEED

Scrap paper, a glue stick, a backing sheet

HOW

Tear one strip, glue it down. Hand them the stick.

Tearing is great for small hands.

ART

From 2 yrs

Sticker lines

YOU NEED

Round stickers, a page with a few drawn lines

HOW

Peel one and place it on a line. Let them continue.

Peel the backing edge to start.

ART

From 2½ yrs

Leaf rubbings

YOU NEED

Leaves, thin paper, a crayon with the wrapper off

HOW

Put the leaf under the paper, rub with the side of the crayon.

Collect the leaves on a walk first.

OUTDOORS

From 18 mo

A collecting walk

YOU NEED

A small bag or basket

HOW

Walk slowly and let them choose what goes in, like stones, sticks and leaves.

Lay it all out at home and talk about it.

OUTDOORS

From 18 mo

Digging

YOU NEED

A spoon or small trowel, a patch of soil or sand

HOW

Dig one hole, then hand over the trowel.

Dress for mess.

OUTDOORS

From 2 yrs

Planting a seed

YOU NEED

A cup of soil, a bean seed, a little water

HOW

Poke a hole, drop the seed, cover it, water it. Check it every day.

Beans sprout fast.

OUTDOORS

From 2½ yrs

Shadow spotting

YOU NEED

A sunny day, sidewalk chalk

HOW

Trace their shadow, then let them trace yours.

Try again later. The shadow moved!