



EDEN MONTESSORI

UPPER ELEMENTARY PLAN 1

Daily Reading and Response Journal:

- Read a fiction book for a minimum of 1 hour per day.
- Keep a response journal: summarize in paragraph form the main events in your fiction book each day. Explain your story to a reader who has not yet read the book and is not familiar with the setting or the characters. Introduce characters and use descriptive language to make the story come alive (convince someone to read your story).

Writing Prompts:

Choose three writing prompts from the list below to try this week.

- You may hand write in a journal, or you may choose to type and mail it to me.
- Paint a Picture with Words: Create an Ekphrastic Poem. See <https://poetryteatime.com/blog/ekphrastic-poetry>
- Do you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a medical professional or a first responder? Write a letter of gratitude for all they are doing to keep us all safe. There could be other ways to express your gratitude and support too!
- Think of someone who helped you grow or change in some way—it can be someone still in your life or someone you've parted ways: a family member, a friend, a neighbor, a classmate, whoever! Write a letter to them about the impact that they had on your life and what big changes came about as a result of their presence in your life. You might decide never to send it - it's up to you!
- Write a letter that you never intend to send to another person (or group of people) of your choice. After you write, reflect what was it like, writing something to someone that you know won't be read. Did it feel cathartic (a feeling of relief)? Pointless? Energizing? Why?

- Open up the fiction book you are currently reading and write the first sentence you see into your notebook. You can also use the first sentence of the book or first sentence of any chapter. This sentence is the beginning of your story. Your job is now to write your own version of events. The possibilities are endless!
- This is a great time to write an autobiography, a biography of a family member, or a family history because you can interview family members. Grandma, Grandpa, or Great Auntie would probably love a phone call/Facetime from a joyful young person!
- Do you have a special little one in your life? A new baby sibling, cousin, or neighbor? Creating a baby booklet could be a lovely project! Write your own simple poem or nursery rhyme and illustrate the pages (perhaps if you have them, look at some baby books around your house for inspiration).

Weekly Spelling List and Activity:

An old fashioned dictionary or independent reading books work fine to scout for new and interesting words instead of using the PDF lists.

Children, choose ten words to learn this week. Ideally these are words you use often but notice that you don't feel comfortable spelling in your own writing, or they can be words that trip you up while reading. As a backup, you can choose words from one of the high frequency lists, or new vocabulary you encounter through your own research.

Once you have chosen words, practice spelling them correctly.

Options for this include:

- Word Wall Card
- Tiles: spell with bananagrams tiles
- Shaving Cream: write in shaving cream using a silpat or tray
- Skin/Air Writing: trace the letters on your skin with a finger, tap each letter down your arm and then say the whole word, or write them in the sky using your whole arm
- Stamp: use an alphabet box to stamp the words with ink or into dough
- Sand: trace the words with your finger in a sand tray
- Word Hunt: search a book or the environment around you for each word and then record
- Cirque du Soleil: form each letter on the rug with your body
- Chant: chant each letter in a rhythmic pattern
- Rainbow: choose 3-5 colors and write the word in each
- Story: write a story/poem that includes all of the words
- Teach: teach someone else how to spell the word

Each time, make sure you:

1. Read the word aloud (while looking at it in written form).
2. Spell the word aloud, one letter at a time.
3. Attempt to spell without looking at the word (using one of the above methods).



4. Check that you spelled the word correctly.
5. Create a sentence that uses the word (aloud).

Here are the downloadable Dolch word lists:
<http://www.dolchword.net/dolch-word-list.html>

NB* Practice your Second Language conversational skills with your family.

Math and Geometry Topics:

If for any reason your child does not have access to a computer or you prefer to support their work differently, there are plenty of alternative ways to build math appreciation, number flexibility and to practice building skills.

(I recommend researching “Numbers Talks” - once a parent knows how to have a number talk, these can make for fun, spontaneous conversations).

If you have simple tools at home (e.g. geometry compass, ruler, measuring cups, graph paper, protractor, thermometers, etc.) your child is encouraged to put those tools to good use! How about doing some Fractions in the kitchen?!

If you would like to practice some Montessori Math Materials, have a try at extracting the square root or finding common multiples on the pegboard VIRTUALLY, a new resource coded by a Montessori teacher's husband! This resource might be most fun for parents, to get a glimpse at how our materials work. A little tutorial can be provided if you request :)

See www.montessori.tools/ if you would like to work with the Pegboard or the Stamp Game. Feel free to visit www.khanacademy.org to view their Maths lessons.

NB* A fun idea is to create a General Store game at home, creating notes and coins out of money.

Because each child's math and geometry work is individualized at school, I understand that supporting this work can be a challenge outside of school. Please feel free to drop me a note for some guidance or assistance identifying the best fit for your child.

Science Project:

Select a science project from this site: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/education/bring-science-home/>

Make sure you have the materials at home that are needed for your project of choice. Follow the instructions, collect data and observations, and write down your conclusions. Send photos of your process, or share your conclusions with me at victoria@edenmontessori.co.za



Biology:

Identify the parts of a leaf: margin, midvein, veins, apex, blade/lamina, base, petiole

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BJC9OmWsUY> (Parts of a leaf)

Pick any juicy fruit. Sketch the specimen and as best as you can, capture the color with your colored pencils / crayons / watercolor. Identify and describe the exocarp (skin), mesocarp (juicy middle), pericarp (all parts but the seed), and endocarp (core middle). (If you do not have a fresh fruit at home, you can search one on the internet).

Is it a drupe? (One large seed in the middle)

Is it a berry? (Multiple seeds on the inside)

Is it a hesperidium? (Citrus fruits with pulp and a rind)

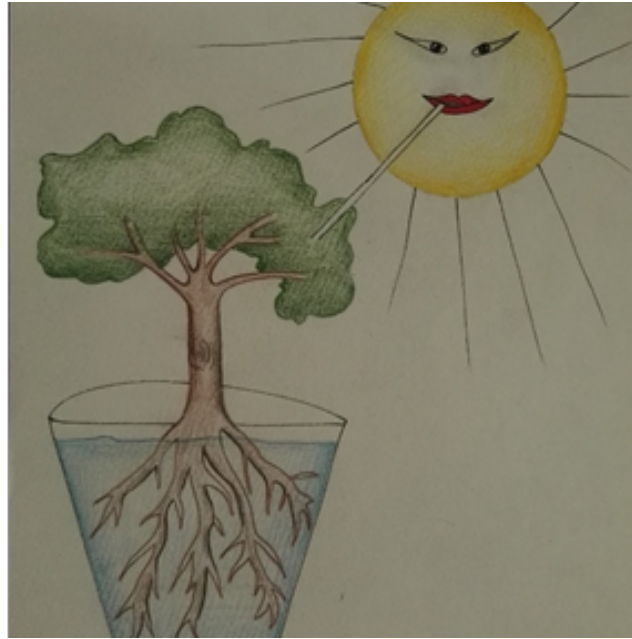
Is it a pepo? (A many-seeded berry, that has a hard rind like pumpkin, squash, melon, or cucumber)

Function of the leaf (please read this to your child and show them the picture)

How do plants eat?

Each leaf contains water – and each drop of water contains two particles of hydrogen and one particle of oxygen. Within the leaf, the green part of the leaf, in the presence of the sun, helps separate the two hydrogens from the oxygen. The hydrogen that has been separated is mixed with a gas that has been taken in from the air. That gas is carbon dioxide. So, the hydrogens and the carbon dioxide are mixed together and then cooked by the sun into plant food to feed the plant. Then the oxygen that was not used is thrown off as a waste.





Further Functions of the Leaf

How does that Carbon Dioxide get into the leaf?

On each leaf are small pores that look like mouths which are called stomata. It comes from the Greek word that means mouth. Like mouths, the stomata open and close.

- When a leaf wants to hold onto its water, the mouths are open.
- When the leaves want to give off water, that water goes up into the air. That is why there is so much humidity in areas where there are a lot of plants.
- That is also why in places where there are not a lot of plants, there is not a lot of water in the air and it is very dry there.
- But when the stomata are open and giving off water, it is like the sun is having a good drink. The sun drinks from all the plants in the world.

Geography Activity:

For the internet inclined: try the NatGeo Kids Geography Quiz and see what you know! Can you name the countries of the world?

Research the Formation of mountains. How are mountains formed? How old are they? Can you identify some mountains in your area?

Here are a few links to more information:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/za/discover/geography/physical-geography/structure-of-the-earth/>

<https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-are-mountains-made>

Music

Children can create their own artwork or compose music in the style of their favorite artists. Or invite children to explore art and music through history. They can identify composers, make a timeline, or even practice a piece to perform when



they get back to school – They can perform virtually to friends and family in the meantime.

They can also practice a beat or rhythm on a tin can or make their own musical instrument.

Care for the Home and Others:

- Plan a meal to cook or a recipe to bake. Be sure to clean the kitchen thoroughly upon completion and return any tools and utensils to their proper home.
- Offer to care for any houseplants or family pets.
- If you have your own bookshelf, organize it by genre (e.g. fantasy, literary fiction, nonfiction, science fiction, poetry, etc.) or by author last name, or help a sibling organize their shelf.
- Wash and fold your own laundry.
- Offer to set the table for a family meal.
- Fix something broken (e.g. darning a sock).
- Ask an adult how you can help with a task (carrying groceries, taking out trash, etc.)
- Write a list of questions on paper slips and have the family draw questions from a bowl or hat to make for some interesting dinner conversation.
- Call someone lonely.
- Play with a sibling.

Care for Self:

- Take a mindfulness break
- Do something creative (e.g. paint, draw, write a poem, build something, play music, make a booklet and decorate the cover)
- Prepare a healthy snack or smoothie
- Get some exercise (e.g. practice yoga)
- If you have the resources nearby, try some handwork (kumihimo, knitting, crochet, embroidery, origami, sewing)
- Learn something new from YouTube
- Learn something new from someone else!
- Wash your hands often

