

# The Sunshine (3~6) Curriculum & Lessons



The Sunshine Curriculum is grouped into five areas:

## Practical Life

The Practical Life area provides a link between the home and school environment, with activities and materials that are familiar to the child. Here, the child can develop and refine everyday skills, while also answering deeper developmental needs. While engaging in these activities, the child will have the opportunity to develop longer concentration, refine their coordination and fine motor skills, and become more independent in taking care of themselves and the environment. Children who are allowed the freedom to repeat these activities to their satisfaction experience a deep sense of accomplishment, which will in time build the foundation for confidence and self-reliance.

Activities in this area include preliminary work like pouring, spooning, and carrying objects; opportunities to perfect the skills necessary to take care of oneself, like buttoning and washing hands, and of the environment, like sweeping and caring for plants; practice for independent social interactions - the Grace and Courtesy exercises; and games that help the child refine their control over their movements.

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Practical Life Lessons					
Preliminary Exercises	Care of Self	Care of the Environment	Grace and Courtesy	Control and Coordination of Movement	Art
Stringing beads Threading How to Walk in the Class How to Carry an Object/Chair/Table How to Roll and Unroll a Mat Open and Closing Containers Pouring Grains Spooning Tongs Pouring Water Whisking Folding Cloth How to Put on and Fold an Apron Squeezing a Sponge	How to Cough/Sneeze/Wipe Your Nose Hand Washing Grooming How to Clean Shoes Dressing Frames (Button, Snap, Zipper, Buckle, Safety Pin, Bow Tying, Lacing) Braiding	Watering Plants Dusting Sweeping Mopping Window Washing Chalkboard Washing Table Washing Scrubbing the Carpet Polishing (Wood, Mirror, Silver) Washing the Leaves of a Plant Flower Arranging Table Setting Washing Dishes Grinding Peeling and Cutting Vegetables Cloth Washing Sewing Sewing a Button	How to Greet How to Open and Close a Door How to Pass in Front of Someone How to Say “Here You Are” and “Thank You” How to Pass a Sharp Object Self-Introduction How to Get Someone’s Attention How to Watch Someone Else’s Work Solving a Disagreement	Walking on the Line Silence Game	Cutting paper Pasting Drawing Painting on the Easel Watercolour Painting Clay

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## Sensorial

The child between 3 and 6 years of age is eager to discover their physical surroundings, and does so through sensorial exploration. The materials in this area provide opportunities to channel this natural curiosity into carefully designed activities that simplify the sensorial experience, therefore providing the “keys to the world” to the children.

Children will be able to refine each of their senses in isolation, with some of the most iconic Montessori materials, such as the Pink Tower, the Colour Tablets, and the Sound Cylinders. These materials are built with specific characteristics, such as beauty, and exactness, and often feature “a base of 10” as indirect preparation for future work with the decimal system in the Mathematics area.

Sensorial Lessons					
Visual	Tactile	Auditory	Gustatory	Olfactory	Stereognostic
Cylinder Blocks The Pink Tower The Brown Stair The Red Rods Color Tablets (box 1,2,3) Geometric Cabinet Binomial Cube Trinomial Cube The Roman Arch The Constructive Triangles The Decanomial Square Graded Figures Knobless Cylinders	Touch Boards/Tablets Fabrics Thermic Tablets	Sound Cylinders The Bells	Tasting Bottles	Smelling Bottles	Geometric Solids Sorting Bag Sorting Grains Mystery Bag

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## Language

Communicating and creating social bonds with others is one of the most fundamental human experiences, and children are naturally interested in both oral and written language. What Maria Montessori described as the Absorbent Mind, supports the child's effortless language acquisition, whether in a monolingual or multilingual environment. The materials in the class support the child's natural curiosity in a seamless progression towards the acquisition of writing and reading skills. A Montessori child asked who taught them to read and write will often reply "No one! I learnt by myself!".

The Montessori environment is rich with spontaneous opportunities for oral language development, and the teachers provide additional input in small group activities like vocabulary lessons and the I Spy game. When the child shows the first signs of interest, they will be introduced to the Sandpaper Letters. Once they have memorised the letters and their

sounds, they will be able to start expressing themselves in writing, first with the aid of the Moveable Alphabet, and later, directly on paper. Only then will the child have had a deep enough understanding of the workings of the written language to effortlessly start exploring reading, a more complex experience as this time, it is the thoughts of others that the child needs to interpret rather than expressing their own.

Although the school's language of instruction is English, each class is equipped with a full set of Japanese language materials too, which children can be introduced to depending on their Japanese language skills. All children are exposed to Japanese songs and books, and to different aspects of Japanese culture.

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Language Lessons						
Oral Language	Writing	Reading	Function of Words	Word Study	Reading Analysis	Applications of Reading
Social language (Grace and Courtesy) Orientation Games Naming Objects Classified cards (pictures only) Stories, Poems, Songs Function of words (orally) News Period Question Game "I Spy" Game Sandpaper Letters	Moveable Alphabet Metal Insets Feeling and writing Sandpaper Letters Placing Letters on Lined Mat Writing copies Punctuation Written Question Game Free Composition	Object Boxes Action Cards Puzzle Words Reading Booklets Reading Folders Environment Cards Classified Cards Definition Stage	Article Game Adjective Games The Conjunction The Preposition Verb Adverb Games Command Cards	Compound Words Plurals Gender Homonyms Word Charts	Introduction Reading Analysis	Prepared Supplementary Reading Material Use of Book Corner and Library Sequence of Letters Language related to Culture Materials



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## Mathematics

The child's work in the Practical Life and Sensorial areas of the class lays the foundation for their work in the Mathematics area, as it provides opportunities for the development of concentration and strong work habits that are needed to interact successfully with the Mathematics materials.

The Mathematics curriculum comprises six areas, each of them organically providing a linear progression leading the child from a concrete, manipulative experience to a higher level of abstraction of the concept presented. The areas are: Numbers 0-10; the Decimal System; Linear and Skip Counting; Memorisation Work, Passage to Abstraction, and Fractions.

As in all areas of the class, the Mathematics materials respond to the natural curiosity of the child, and children will not only develop the specific Mathematics abilities required by each activity, but also transversal skills like longer concentration span, self-correction and perseverance, and the ability to work with others cooperatively when it comes to complex group activities.

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Mathematics Lessons					
Numbers 1-10 and 0	Decimal System	Linear Counting	Memorisation/Basic Combinations	Passage to Abstraction	Fractions
Number Rods Introduction Sandpaper numerals Number Rods and Cards Spindle Box Cards and Counters Memory Game of Numbers	Introduction to Quantity Introduction to Symbols Formation of large Numbers with Beads and Cards Collective Exercises- (Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Short Division, Long Division) The Stamp Game- Introduction Stamp Game Operations- (Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division) Dot Game Word Problems	Teens- 11 to 19 Quantity Beads Teen Boards- 11-19 Symbols 11-19 association with Quantity and Beads Ten Boards- Naming 10's Ten Board- 11 to 99 Counting 11-99 with Ten Board and Beads Linear Counting with Short Chains Linear Counting with Long Chains Skip Counting	Addition Snake Game Addition Strip Boards with Control Chart I and II Addition Chart III, IV,V & VI ( Blank Chart) The Subtraction Snake Game Subtraction Strip Board with Subtraction Control Chart I Subtraction Chart II and III (Blank Chart) Multiplication Bead Bar Multiplication Board Multiplication Chart II, III,IV & (Blank Chart) Unit Division Board Division Chart I and II (Blank Chart)	Bead Frame (Small/Large)	Sensorial Exploration Fraction Vocabulary

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## Culture

In the Culture area of the environment, the child will learn simple concepts from the subjects of Geography, Botany, Zoology, and Science. This responds to the child’s natural curiosity towards the world around them, while creating opportunities for language enrichment. The learning experiences in this area are again provided by concrete, manipulative materials such as wooden puzzles, flags, and pictures.

Culture Lessons			
Geography	Botany	Zoology	Science
The Sandpaper Globe The Color Globe The Puzzle Map of the World The Land and Water Forms The Puzzle Maps of the Continents Flags The Geographic Folders	Parts of a Tree Parts of a Leaf Parts of a Flower The Botany Cabinet	5 Classes of Vertebrates Parts of a Fish Parts of a Frog Parts of a Turtle Parts of a Bird Parts of a Horse	Living and Non-Living Natural and Man-Made Animals and Plants Magnetism Sink and Float



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## The Garden

In addition to the five areas of the classroom, children have free access to the garden during the work cycle, where they can engage in a variety of practical outdoor activities, such as taking care of plants, growing vegetables, cooking, garden maintenance and working on carpentry projects, amongst others.

Outdoor Environment						
Care of the Environment	Practical Life (Preliminary Exercises)	Care of Self	Grace and Courtesy	Language	Art	Mathematics
Sweeping Raking Watering plants Mopping Wiping Digging Weeding Table washing Rug washing	Sawing Hammering Drilling Sanding Screwdriving Geoboards	Hand washing Washing Hands	Greeting someone Asking a question Solving a disagreement Choosing work Using quiet voices Using materials appropriately	Identifying plants, trees Identifying insects, birds	Drawing: Pencils Painting	Collecting things

## Music

Music is part of the classroom environment as part of the Sensorial area and also when children are exposed to songs, rhymes and other rhythm based activities in a group. Older Sunshine children also take weekly classes with a Music teacher throughout the year.

## Other Activities

Classes take turns working with different specialists, participating in a selection of activities, such as Gymnastics, Dance, Art, and Ukulele lessons, amongst others (activities may vary annually).