

**BALANCE
CARE OF SELF, OTHERS
AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

The child can only develop by means of experience in his environment.

We call such experience work.

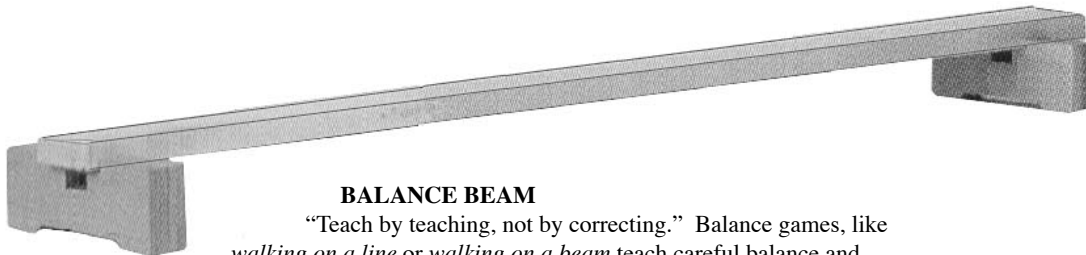
—Dr. Maria Montessori

THE FIRST SIX YEARS

Today the importance of the formative first six years of life is

common knowledge. During this time a child becomes fully a member of her particular culture and family group, absorbing language, attitudes, manners, values, of those in which she comes in daily contact. A child who spends these years in a loving and supportive environment learns to love herself and feels safe in the world. A child who has experienced the joy of contributing to her family or group learns to love making an effort, and feels needed.

Balance and walking practice are favorite activities at this age, and very important for the child's development.



BALANCE BEAM

“Teach by teaching, not by correcting.” Balance games, like *walking on a line* or *walking on a beam* teach careful balance and movement. These activities are much more successful at teaching careful movement than constantly correcting or reminding a child not to run with scissors, to “be careful” etc. A balance beam draws children to its challenge to walk carefully, or to walk carrying things and not spilling them.

This six foot long *balance beam*, made of hard maple, adjusts to two positions and can easily be manipulated by children for a number of games and challenges—blindfold walking, walking while carrying a glass of water without spilling, a bell without making a sound, etc. The beam can be in a flat position so that it is 4" wide, or in an upright position, 2" wide, for more advanced walking. Note: This will be sent separately from the rest of your order.

CR620 \$120.00



JAPANESE BELL

This bell is used for walking on the balance beam. The challenge is to carry it without making a sound. It is often called the *peace bell* by our customers because it calls the children to attention, or announces a celebration, with such a beautiful, gentle sound. I was first entranced by the sound of Japanese iron bells in a garden near Yokohama.

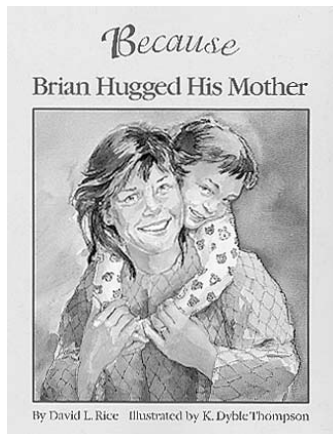
The sound of this iron bell is lovely, and what a charming invitation to meals in the home. 2.5" tall, with the traditional relief pattern, it hangs from a cord, with a paper wind chime tail hanging from the metal striker.

PE710 \$10.50



BECAUSE BRIAN HUGGED HIS MOTHER

This book is destined to become a success, you know, one of those books the child wants to hear over and over and over and over (!) so we offer it in hardcover as well as softcover. A simple act of kindness may go further than you think. Brian hugged his Mom one morning for no special reason and set in motion a series of unselfish acts that reached more people—and even animals—than he could have imagined. This is a story that happens every day, with endless variation, among good-hearted people everywhere. Color illustrations, 9" x 11", 30 pages.



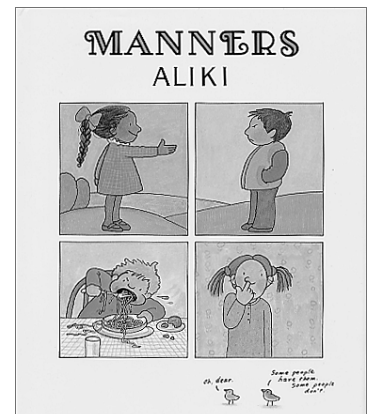
DB150 Hardcover \$16.95
DB155 Softcover \$8.95

MANNERS & FEELINGS BOOKS

These two books show children that the way we treat each other is who we are. "Manners are the way people behave. Manners are the way you treat others. Good manners make you nice. They make others want to be with you."

Both books are full of scenarios in which children act out situations and talk to each other, much as manners are taught in the classroom. Children can relate to this way of presenting ideas. The pictures are funny and sad and very interesting. It is rare to have a child want to put either book down without finishing. And he will want to have them read to him, or to read them himself over and over again. Both books are by Aliko, a favorite children's book author/illustrator. Hardcover, color, approximately 30 pages.

DB10 Manners \$17.00
DB11 Feelings \$17.00



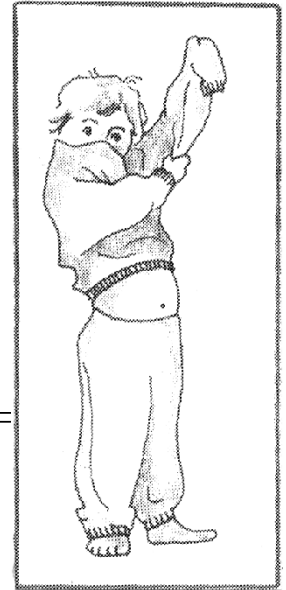
Every child, by instinct, wants to learn and grow to the limit of his abilities. In the first six years of life he does this by imitating those around him.

To support this need we must carefully prepare the physical and social environment, provide tools that enable the child to work to create himself, watch for those first tentative moments of concentration, and get out of the way, following the child as his path unfolds.

PARTICIPATING IN FAMILY LIFE

The traditional work of the family is referred to in Montessori as *practical life* work. It is the single most important area of an education for life. The activities of *practical life* are generally thought of in three main categories, and looking at the child's life in this way helps to keep a balance in the activities we offer children to master. These areas of practical life depend on the culture in which the child is growing up, and may include, but are not limited to:

Learning to undress, and then dress, is important work which requires practice.

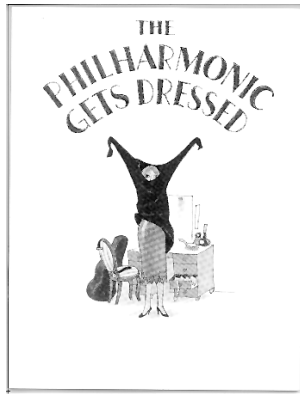


THE PHILHARMONIC GETS DRESSED

Children are fascinated with bathing and dressing at this age. It is a favorite activity, topic of conversation, and subject for books. And here is the most interesting dressing book there is—a symphony orchestra getting bathed and dressed, in many different ways, to perform in a concert.

"First they get washed. There are ninety-two men and thirteen women. Many take showers. A few take baths. When they have finished washing, they dry. They use big towels and little towels and a lot of dusting powder." The lovable text is accompanied by funny drawings. A favorite of children, and of musicians of all ages. Softcover, color, 7" x 9", 42 pages.

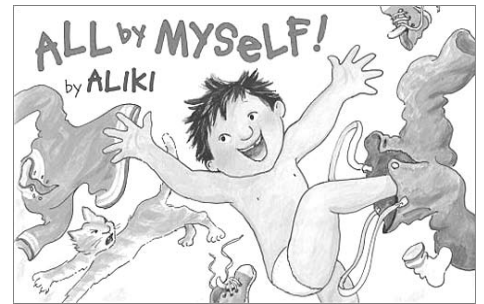
DR116 \$7.00



ALL BY MYSELF

This wonderful book by Aliko is destined to become a favorite. *All By Myself* speaks to every child at this age of growing independence. It shows a young boy exuberantly celebrating the joy of mastering dressing, undressing, buttoning, zipping, scrubbing, and so on. A charming picture book. Hardcover, 11.5" x 7.5", color, 30 pages.

DB010 \$17.99



GOOD HABITS

This chart can be hung in the child's room, family room or kitchen. Children, with a parent, decide which "job" they want to do for a week, which "habit" they want to practice. If the task they would like to do is not one of the choices, there are blank stickers to make others. As the child finishes, he can turn the knob and see the comment "perfect!" or "wow!" or whatever comment you choose to make.



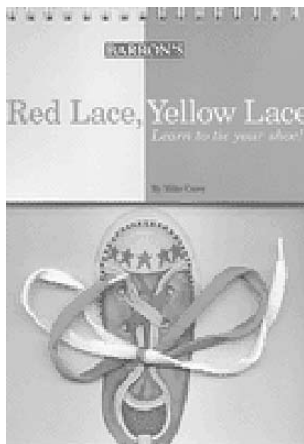
This should be fun, enlightening, a game. Age 3-6 is not the time for children to become responsible for doing certain jobs each day, but to be welcomed into the family work and habits as their abilities are developing.

Some of the labels included are: *brush my teeth, spend time with a book, help someone without being asked, make my bed, eat a healthy food, feed/walk/clean up after the pet.*

DR950 \$20.00

RED LACE, YELLOW LACE BOARD BOOK

Learning to tie a shoe seems so easy to an adult but it is fraught with difficulties for the child just beginning to learn. This book has 10 cardboard pages (the top half of the image to the right) each with a picture of two hands carrying out one of the steps of tying a shoe.



At the bottom is a picture of a shoe with a real shoe lace so the child can practice the steps. One lace is yellow and the other red. Soon the child will be lining up the family shoes to practice. 9" x 12.5," cardboard pages.

DB200 \$12.99

(1) Care of the environment—cleaning, sweeping, polishing, hanging up clothing, washing clothes, gardening, putting away toys.

(2) Care of the person—bathing, dressing, brushing teeth, cooking, setting the table.

(3) Grace and courtesy—walking carefully, carrying things, opening and closing a door, tucking in a chair when finishing work, rolling up a floor mat, offering food, saying "please" and "thank you" and so on.

It is in learning to do such seemingly mundane activities as dressing, dusting, sweeping, preparing and serving food, and fixing or building, work that the child sees going on around her all day long, that she learns to use her body and mind for a purpose, to concentrate, to complete cycles of activity, to finish what she started, and most importantly to contribute to the important work of the family, the social group.

Practical life activities provide

Mopping up spills from other work is very satisfying to the child.



CHILDREN'S APRON

INTERNATIONAL FABRICS

An apron sets the stage for, and adds respect toward, important work. It marks the beginning and the end of the cycle of work, helping the child focus. It is used for cleaning, dusting, caring for plants, cooking, setting a table, polishing furniture, any work in the home.

Ours is made of beautiful cotton fabrics from the Tibetan settlements in India, or handwoven in Guatemala; the patterns and colors always a surprise. The neck band easily slips over the head, and a single waist strap with a velcro fastener at the end allow the child to fasten his own apron—no adult needed!

There are two sizes: 18" long (*small apron*) and 21" long (*medium apron*), preshrunk, machine washable, 100% cotton. The *small apron* has a longer than necessary strap so it can be tucked and sewn to fit your 3-6 child perfectly.

The *medium apron* fits an average 6-8 year old.

- DR01 Small Apron \$13.00
- DR030 Medium Apron \$14.00

EUROPEAN DUST PAN & WHISK BROOM

This is a charming, old style brush with natural bristles, a hardwood handle, and leather hanging strap. The metal dustpan is dark blue and has a lip that works better than any we have seen. A very special set for the child. The dustpan is 9" x 6.5". Made in Germany.

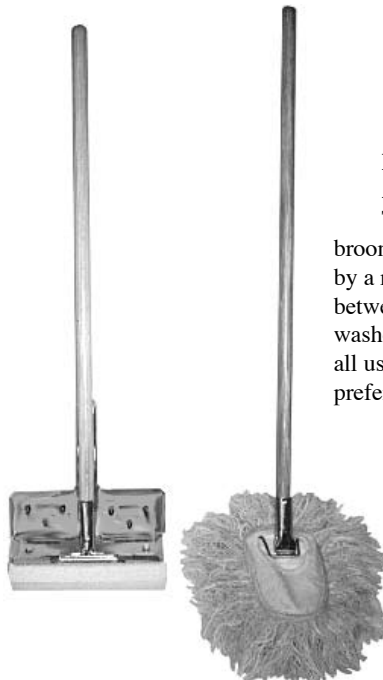
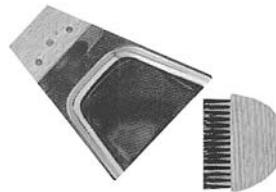
DR902 \$15.50



TINY DUST PAN & WHISK BROOM

This is an excellent quality, stainless steel and wood set which can be hung on the wall anywhere in the house or school for quick use. It can be used for cleaning a table, cleaning up spilled beans and rice, or with a large broom to get those tiny last bits. The broom is perfect for small hands and is easily attached to the pan by a magnet. Length 5.5", width, at the base 4.5".

DR35 \$10.00



BROOMS AND MOPS

These sturdy children's brooms and mops are made by a manufacturer of adult brooms and mops. The handles are between 26" and 29". The head of the dust mop can be removed and washed. The cotton mop is an old fashioned replica of the one we all used before sponge mops were invented, and many people still prefer it.

- DR860 3-6 Broom \$7.00
- DR862 3-6 Dust Mop \$7.00
- DR864 3-6 Sponge Mop \$8.00
- DR877 Home Set/3 \$21.50
(Home set: broom, dust mop, sponge mop)

- DR866 3-6 String Mop \$7.00
- DR868 3-6 Push Broom (not pictured) \$8.50

superior groundwork for physical, mental, and social development, and teach the work habits that lead to success in all later academic work.

Practical life work provides practice in eye-hand coordination, the control of large and small muscles, the ability to walk and to carry objects with control, and to behave with knowledge of good manners. These are the activities that bring the child's attention to his own progress and development, and that open

up a world of important *work*. Learning to look a person in the eye when speaking, to listen patiently, to exhibit thoughtfulness through good manners, enables the child to be welcomed into a social group, to be happy and to make others happy.

Children have for eons shown an interest in daily life through make-believe cooking and cleaning. It was one of the pivotal discoveries of Dr. Montessori that, given the chance, children usually

choose *real* work over *imaginary*.

Allowing the child to participate in the daily work he sees going on around him is an act of great respect for, and confidence in, the child. It helps him to feel important to himself and to those around him. He is needed.

We can empathize if we think about the difference in treatment of a stranger, perhaps a dinner guest in our home, who is served and waited upon, compared to



MARBLE ENAMEL BUCKETS

These very pretty, sturdy, *marble enamel* buckets are useful for many kinds of real work, such as washing the car, carrying soil, cleaning the floor, or combined with basins and pitchers for classroom washing activities. Great for both the home or the classroom.

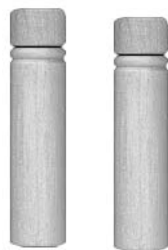
The *large* buckets are 7.5" tall and 9" in diameter at the top. The *small* buckets are 5.5" tall and 6.75" in diameter at the top. The colors are white and dark blue, with black edging. The handles are very strong metal with a wooden grip.

- DR440 Large Blue Enamel Bucket \$18.00**
- DR404 Medium Blue Enamel Bucket \$13.00**

NEEDLE CASES

These little wooden needle cases are used for holding needles and pins when a child is learning how to sew. They can be used in the home by a parent, and then the child may have his own special needle case in the sewing basket. They can be painted or left natural. Maple, 2.25" long.

- CR44 Set/2 \$2.50**



BRUSHES

For cleaning vegetables, the car, the sink, the floor, etc., children love to use wooden brushes that exactly fit their hands. The oval brush is made of wood, with yellow nylon bristles. It is 3 inches long. The round wooden brush, with natural bristles, is from Germany. It has a large, round handle, is 3" tall, and 3" in diameter.

- CR606 Oval Brush \$2.50**
- DR20 Round Brush \$3.50**

WORK GLOVES

Just like the aprons, gloves add an element of importance to the child's work. Whether or not the gloves are really necessary for the work, it is like dressing the part, and marks the beginning and ending of the cycle of work. These are exact duplicates of adult work gloves in the hard to find child's size for ages two to seven. They are made of cotton duck with soft suede palms and knit cuffs. Good for carrying in fire wood, woodwork, helping in the garden, even carrying in the groceries, whenever a child wants to feel like he is doing real work.



- DR26 Small Work Gloves (age 2-5) \$5.00**
- DR27 Medium Work Gloves (age 5-7) \$5.50**

POP-UP SPONGES

These pop-up sponges are fun and practical, they expand enormously or *pop-up* when first placed in water which is very exciting for the child to see. For various kinds of work they can be cut into smaller pieces. The package contains 6 sponges 4" long and 2.75" wide.

- DR015 \$4.75**



that of a good friend who is welcomed in our kitchen to talk and laugh while we prepare the meal together. Children don't want to be the guest, they want us to *help them to do it themselves*.

THE CHILD'S PURPOSE

The child's reason for, and way of, working is different from ours. Adults will usually choose to do things the most efficient and quickest way and to rush

through or avoid anything labeled *work*. A child, on the other hand, is working to master the activity and to practice and perfect her abilities. She may scrub a table each day for weeks, then turn her attention to some other activity to master. We must not look upon this method as inconsistency or laziness but rather cumulative mastery of abilities. The child's purpose is not to complete the task as much as to construct the self.

Practical life activities may well

be the most important work in the Montessori 3-6 class. By means of these activities the child learns to make intelligent choices, to become physically and mentally independent and responsible. She learns to concentrate, to control muscles, to act with care, to focus, to analyze logical steps and complete a cycle of activity.

This lays the groundwork for sound mental and physical work throughout life.

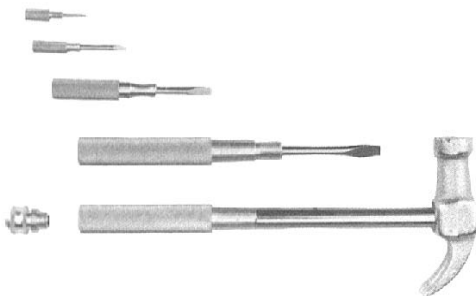


TOOLS CARDS

Clear, full color, pictures on white background teach the child the names of tools. Use these, if possible, AFTER the child handles real tools. Later these will be favorite reading cards. There are 12 unlabeled pictures, 12 labels, and 12 labeled pictures for checking work, 36 pieces in all per set. The labeled cards are 3.75" x 4.24", All cards are laminated and the corners rounded which makes them very long lasting.

DL378

\$18.95



NESTING HAMMER & SCREWDRIVERS

For a three-to-six year old this serves as a satisfying puzzle as well as a good set of tools because the hammer and screwdrivers can always be found together. This is a special indoor tool, for the home or the classroom. A steel and brass hammer containing four regular size to tiny screwdrivers that screw one inside the next.

These are real tools. The length of the hammer is almost 8", and the smallest screwdriver is a little over an inch long. Age three to adult.

DR36

\$8.50



WORK BENCH

A work bench is invaluable in the 3-6 and 6-12 classroom. And girls and boys alike enjoy being part of the parents' building or fix-it projects in the home. Having a place to keep tools and to work at the correct height facilitates the habit of working and helping. Something as simple as tightening the screws on a toy, or as ambitious as a woodworking project, will bring happiness and provide important experience for the child.

This rugged, durable childsize work bench will encourage real, safe work in the classroom or at home. It is equipped with a six-inch vise and pre-drilled to accommodate an additional vise. The top is made from one-inch hard ply laminate, manufactured especially for use as adult work bench tops. This work bench can also be used as a potting table in the garden area, a baking counter, or for other projects the parent and child work on together in the home. The top is 19" wide and 46" long. The height is 24 inches.

NOTE: Shipping can take up to a month. The extra shipping charge for heavy furniture is included in this price.

DR684

\$310.00