



THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT



Bright, inviting, warm,
and beautiful.

These are a few descriptive words
that define the Montessori
environment, fascinating
both children and adults alike!



A prepared environment is one where a community of children learns social and academic skills while developing into independent being.



Characteristic of the prepared environment is its abundance of order, beauty, accessibility, and availability of real materials as opposed to toys. A Montessori classroom is filled with a vast array of sequential learning activities known as Montessori materials. They are displayed on open shelves, in order, without clutter, and each object has a purpose and special location



Standing (1998) describes that the aim of the prepared environment is to “render the growing child independent of the adult. That is, it is a place where he can do things for himself – live his own life – without immediate help of adults... In doing so, [the child] becomes conscious of his own powers” (p. 267).



Tips to create prepared environment at home

- Declutter the room
- Assess the environment
- Create a yes space
- Display limited activities at a time
- Have a place for everything
- Add elements of natural beauty



Declutter the room

Remove all the excess toys, materials and furniture.

The first noticeable thing of an ideal Montessori classroom is the whole room is decluttered yet provide enough activities to the child



Assess the environment

Observe the space from the child's height and arrange shelves in such a way that a child can access all the activities independently.

Provide as much as independence and provide freedom within limits.



Create a yes space

Remove items that are not suitable for child's development. Use child-sized materials and activities.

Try open ended materials as it doesn't limit a child's learning and let the child explore themselves.

Provide as much as independence and provide freedom within limits.



Have place for everything

Remove items that are not suitable for child's development. Use child-sized materials and activities.

Divide the room into sitting area, activity shelf, reading area and care for environment

Try open ended materials as it doesn't limit a child's learning and let the child explore themselves.



Display limited activities at a time

Display only a few developmentally appropriate activities at a time. This gives a child the freedom to choose, experiment, independence and self confidence.

Do not rotate toys everyday or after few days. Observe a child's development and need. If that skill is achieved then rotation is



A place for everything

Having a place for everything and everything in its place helps a child learn sense of order, responsibility, respect for the environment, and peace.



Add elements of beauty

Personalize the space by adding few plants at child's height. windows to provide natural light and soothing color walls.

Keep the room as simple yet beautiful so that a child should focus on learning and doesn't get distracted.



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