

What Comes After The Great Lessons?

January 23, 2020

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. **Exploring the Lower Elementary Classroom**
 - A. Initial expectations: child is able to accept direction, will listen attentively in small and large group presentations and will be able to work in a cooperative learning atmosphere.
 - B. Work plans provide clear expectation and are given weekly. These provide direction, as needed, and allow for independence.
 - C. Record books are used to record student's work and materials are shared which encourages cooperation and patience.
 - D. Concrete materials are used to present lessons and for a student's work. The guide's role is to help students develop their academic potential to the highest level possible. The prepared environment fosters peace and tolerance, as well as independence.
- III. **The Great Lessons**
 - A. The Creation of the Universe
 - B. The Coming of Life
 - C. The Coming of Humans
 - D. The Coming of Signs/Timeline of Writing
 - E. The Story of Numbers
- IV. **The Path from the Great Lessons to the Montessori Curriculum**
 - A. **The Creation of the Universe - Science**
 - 1. Astronomy
 - a. The Universe – whole to part
 - b. The Solar System: planets, characteristics
 - c. The Stars
 - d. The Constellations
 - e. Planet Earth – Earth Science & Geography
 - 1. Layers of the Earth
 - 2. Plate Tectonics
 - 3. Layers of the Atmosphere
 - 4. Land and Water Forms
 - 5. Continents and Oceans

6. Work of Wind and Water
 7. Orientation, Directions and Mapping
 8. Longitude and Latitude
 9. Day and Night
 10. Seasons
 11. Phases of the Moon
 12. Weather
 13. Cloud Studies and Definitions
 14. Storm Studies and Safety Measures
 15. Water Cycle
2. Chemistry
 - a. Three States of Matter
 - b. Experiments
 - c. Physical properties: soft, hard, rigid, etc.
 - d. Forces
 - e. Changes in matter
 - f. Solutions
 - g. Heat on matter
 - h. Acid and base
 - i. Periodic table of elements
 - j. Atomic structure -vocabulary, molecules and atoms
 3. Physics
 - a. Electricity
 - b. Magnets
 - c. Gravity
 - d. Buoyancy
 - e. Balance, scales, measurements
 - f. Simple Machines
 - g. Mass, work, friction
 - h. Motion – force, speed, direction, inertia, friction
 - i. Types of light
 - j. Sound
 4. The Scientific Process

B. The Story of Life

1. Zoology

- a. 5 kingdoms of living things
 - b. Vertebrates and Invertebrates, past/present
 - c. Classification, description and parts of invertebrates
 - d. Classification, description, external and internal parts of vertebrates
 - e. Timelines, biomes and habitats of vertebrates
2. Botany
- a. Comparison of Living and Non-living
 - b. Characteristics of plants and animals
 - c. Comparisons of plants and animals
 - d. Identification, type, shapes, component parts and location
 - e. Trees
 - f. Flowers
 - g. Plants
 - h. Leaves
 - i. Seeds
 - j. Identification within plant kingdom
 1. First knowledge
 2. Plant stories
 3. Question and answer games
 - k. Life cycle of plants with gardening
 - l. Plant experiments

C. The Story of Humans - History

1. Concept of Time
 - a. Timelines
 1. BC/AD, BCE/CE
 2. Concept of 0
 3. Personal timeline
 4. Clock of Eras (History in clock form)
 5. Calendars, Days, Weeks, Months, Year and Its Parts
 6. Age of the Earth- rock studies, fossils, gems and minerals
2. History and Grammar; classification of past, present and future
3. Concept of History
 - a. Fundamental Needs of Mankind
 - b. Spiritual Needs
 - c. Material Needs: Food, Clothing, Shelter, etc.

- d. Want vs. Need
- 4. Study of History

D. The Story of Writing

1. Listening and Speaking Skills
 - a. Receptive skills- listens to others appropriately, follows verbal directions – up to four steps, maintains work focus
 - b. Speaking skills – Speaks publicly before small group, communicates ideas effectively, participates in discussions, participates in singing, drama, etc. activities, discusses and shares personal experiences and life situations
2. Reading Skills
 - a. Word Study
 1. Compounds
 2. Root words, suffixes, prefixes
 3. Antonyms
 4. Synonyms
 5. Homonyms
 6. Similes
 7. Metaphors
 8. Rhyming words
 3. Syllable work
 4. Alphabetizing to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th letter
 5. Uses reference texts appropriately
 6. Dictionary research
 7. Thesaurus
 8. Computer research
 9. Atlas
 10. Classifies vocabulary
 11. Reads orally with fluency, accuracy and comprehension
 12. Grammar
 - a. Defines parts of speech and identifies each part in a sentence
 - b. Locates the subject, predicate and direct object
 13. Comprehension
 - a. Sequences events with beginning, middle and end
 - b. Reads and answers comprehension questions on grade level with 80% accuracy
 - c. Determines fact or opinion statement

- d. Determines cause and effect
 - e. Makes predictions, draws inferences, and conclusions from reading
 - f. Relates and compares reading material to real life experiences
14. Combined tasks
- a. Works independently by following written directions
 - b. Reads for pleasure
 - c. Understands legends, myths, fairy tales, biographies, autobiographies, fiction and non-fiction
 - d. Reads pictographs, tables, charts, and graphs with accuracy and answers questions for comprehension
15. Spelling Skills
- a. Uses spelling strategies to accurately spell words
 - b. Adds plural endings: s, -es, -ies and irregular plurals
 - c. Uses contractions appropriately
 - d. Spells words on grade level using knowledge of spelling rules and patterns
 - e. Studies for spelling/vocabulary tests and takes test with ease
16. Writing Skills
- a. Handwriting
 - b. Writes legibly in manuscript, with margins and spacing
 - c. Writes legibly in cursive, with margins and spacing
17. Language mechanics
- a. Capitalizes correctly
 - b. Utilizes punctuation correctly: end marks; commas; quotation marks; colons; semicolons; hyphens; abbreviations; apostrophes
18. Writing Skills
- a. Beginning skills
 - 1. Writes 3 types of sentences: declarative; imperative; interrogatory
 - 2. Writes a description utilizing adjectives
 - 3. Writes a paragraph accurately with correct capitalization, punctuation and topic sentences
 - 4. Writes a persuasive paragraph
 - 5. Groups topics into paragraphs
 - 6. Understands writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing
 - b. Intermediate skills
 - 1. Writes a journal entry

2. Writes poems, including a haiku poem
 3. Completes a story in own word when given a story starter
 4. Writes an autobiography
 5. Writes a short summary of a book previously read
 6. Writes a story with a clear beginning, middle, and end
 7. Writes a friendly letter or thank you note with correct structure
 8. Writes descriptive essay
- c. Advanced skills
1. Illustrates a story map
 2. Groups topics into paragraphs
 3. Writes a comparison paragraph using a Venn diagram for a draft
 4. Creates an outline from material read
 5. Takes notes on important information
 6. Begins general research activities: finds books, uses index, uses table of contents, records information
 7. Paraphrases information from information
 8. Writes short research paper

E. The Story of Numbers (Math)

1. Numeration
2. Place Value
3. Classification
 - a. Ordinal numbers, even and odd, Roman numerals to 20
4. Order and sequencing numbers, including decimals and fractions
5. Rounding
6. $>$, $<$ and $=$
7. Addition
8. Multiplication
9. Subtraction
10. Division
11. Understands the properties and can apply them
12. Money & time
13. Measurements: ruler, perimeter, area, volume, weight, conversion and estimates
14. Word problems with all four operations, fractions, time and money
15. Squaring and cubing
16. Fractions

17. Decimals
18. Charts & graphs

F. The Story of Numbers (Geometry)

1. Point, line, surface
2. Lines – straight, curved, horizontal, vertical, oblique, perpendicular, line, ray, line segment, parallel, convergent, divergent
3. Angles
 - a. Naming and measuring
4. Geometric solids – definition and identification
5. Triangles
 - a. Naming by sides and by angle
6. Quadrilaterals
7. Regular and irregular polygons
8. Circles
9. Symmetrical and congruent objects