

Montessori inspired *Social Distancing*

Fun, friendly ways to reduce contact while maintaining connections in the classroom!

Embrace the outdoors

Your outdoor environment is likely to be larger than your indoor classroom, so moving outside means that children will be inclined to spontaneously spread out without being instructed to do so. It also means being out in the fresh air and soaking up Vitamin D, which can help support healthy immune function. The current advice is that animals do not catch or carry Covid-19 so pets provide a great chance to have a cuddle with confidence!

Think about moving as much of your routine as possible into your outdoor spaces to capitalise on these benefits!



Prepare the environment

Remember that your environment influences the behaviour of the children, and you are the architect of that environment! Think about the outcomes you want - 'social distancing' in this case - and prepare the environment to nudge children in that direction. Move tables and chairs so they are not clustered closely, reduce furniture so there is more overall space, make sure you're using all available areas or rooms and rethink (or remove) confined spaces (eg. cubby houses).



Practical Life patrol

Review your Practical Life materials and activities to include more that are specific to personal health and hygiene, such as hand scrubbing, or learning to spray 'n' wipe!

Avoid group times

Montessori learning is already personalised and promotes independence, but with social distancing in mind it's important that we avoid putting large groups together in close proximity. Emphasise positive individual experiences where children can joyfully engage and explore without being physically close to others. .

Split & Stagger

Look at your physical environment to seek ways that you can split the group into smaller units in different areas, or stagger routines so that fewer children are in one place at the same time.

Create some great greetings

We are being advised to avoid handshakes, but they say 'necessity is the mother of invention' so it's time to get creative about some alternatives! You could greet each other with waves, a hand on your heart, a short dance routine, a polite bow, a peace sign or more!

