

Lesson 8: Examples of parent education

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In Lesson 7 I gave many ways that we can share information with parents from newsletters to parent workshops to articles.

Today I'd like to show you exactly what parent education looks like in my classes today 10 years into running these classes – this is definitely not how it looked in Year 1. And I've given you access to 10 of the handouts I use in my class which you are welcome to download for your own use.

I wasn't planning to but thought it could be very useful to also give you examples of my parent workshops. So I have arranged special access just for you to all the online versions of the parent workshops I run. Run, don't walk! See details how to access these lower in the lesson.

NOTE: Use of these materials

You can use the handouts in your classroom but please do not share with people outside your school.

For the online workshops this is only for you to access as these are paid workshops on my website. I hope the workshops are useful to create your own parent workshops or you can get parents to sign up for these from my website if you think they'd find them useful.

Thanks for your understanding.

Tips for creating parent education materials

Before we jump in, here are 3 things to remember as you create resources for parents:

- Use simple language – parents with young children are often tired. So keep the language you use easy to digest. Use parent's language – not too much "Montessori-speak"
- Make it easy to read – headings and sub-headings, bullet points, short sentences, short paragraphs and photos make information more digestible
- Make the information useful and shareable – people respond to how they can put the Montessori principles into action

The thing I say most
often every day:

"I don't know. Let's find
out together."

-Simone Davies

Step-by-step parent education at Jacaranda Tree Montessori

Over time the parents receive information about the Montessori approach in many different ways with the aim of **transformation**. I like to call this the drip-drip-drip method.

This would be a typical experience for someone signing up for my classes:

1. Website – contains basic information about the Montessori approach, how a class works, and the practical aspects like costs and how to sign up
2. Application form – when they complete the application form online, they are signed up to receive the newsletter
3. Newsletter – every newsletter contains an article about some aspect of the Montessori approach (around once every 2 weeks)
4. Observation – they can make an appointment to observe a class for 30 minutes
5. Introduction to Montessori evening (1.5 hours) – this is a free evening explaining some of the principles of the Montessori approach and how it works in practice. I also demonstrate some of the activities and give a tour of the classroom. (You can access an online version of this workshop below.)
6. Once there is space and their payment is received, they receive an email with some tips for getting the most out of classes.

7. A few days before the first class, they receive an email including the introduction video.
 8. They are invited to arrive 10 minutes before their first class to get settled before the other children arrive.
 9. I introduce them to a few main things the first class:
 1. follow the child and when to step in to help (when their hands are on the activity, our hands are off)
 2. modelling where things go back in the classroom
 3. getting permission from the child when you want to handle them, change their diaper etc
 4. slow hands no words
 5. sharing by taking turns
 10. Then by coming to class, they can:
 1. Ask questions
 2. Learn from others
 3. Learn from watching how I interact with their child
 4. Use the handout on a clipboard in class to practise an aspect, eg, alternatives to “good job”
 5. Observation practice at least 2x per 10-week course
 11. Attend additional parent workshops
 12. Continue to receive the newsletter
 13. Many also borrow books from the parent library including *The Montessori Toddler*
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Examples of handouts I use each week in my class

I don't have any set order, just what is coming up a lot in class or we need reminding of. I generally write these on Sunday evening for the week ahead. Or pull one out of the archives for a reminder.

You can use these handouts in your classroom but please do not share with people outside your school. Thanks for your understanding.

1. Alternatives to “Good Job”
 2. Alternatives to time out
 3. Encouraging independence
 4. Follow the child
 5. Help children to concentrate
 6. Kind and clear limits
 7. Observation challenge #1
 8. Observation challenge #2
 9. Three period lesson
 10. Use soft hands
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Access to online versions of my parent workshops

You will need to be logged in to access these workshops. Please don't share the login with others. These are just for you as special bootcamp participants and not to be used in your school or by others. Thank you.

1. [Introduction to Montessori](#) – 1.5 hour workshop + Q&A
 2. [Montessori for Toddlers](#) – 2 hour workshop + Q&A
 3. [Montessori for Babies](#) – 2 hour workshop + Q&A
 4. [Applying the “How to talk so kids will listen” approach](#) – 2 hour workshop + Q&A
 5. [Raising Peaceful Siblings](#) – 2 hour workshop + Q&A
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Books in my parent library + blogs

You'll find a list of all the books in my parent library and interesting blogs for parents [here](#).



Parent library

TIME FOR ACTION

I hope that you are starting feel ready to work with the parents. This work can be transformational in the way they parent their children. Yet everyone will learn in their unique way or their unique timeline. So be patient with the adults too.

1. What resources would you like to make available or create for parents?
2. Design your ideal parent education program. And then over time work to create it.

SUMMARY

Next lesson: Lesson 9: Finding a space/location