

Botany-Zoology at Home!

"The task of the teacher becomes that of preparing a series of motives of cultural activity, spread over a specially prepared environment and then refraining from obtrusive interference." *Montessori, Maria, Education for a New World, p. 2*

Did you know that part of the Montessori curriculum is the study of Botany and Zoology-for all ages! We start by exposing the child to the real by Nature walks, collecting leaves, observing animals in their habitat, classifying flowers, looking for animal tracks. The next steps are to classify each area of study according to similarities and attributes. This continues on throughout the Montessori classrooms-progressing at each plane of development. We prepare both the indoor and outdoor environments so that children are allowed many opportunities to discover and explore Nature.

Children bring in objects from Nature that they find...for example, right now in my office-Lily, Lola, and Andrea have approached me and are showing me a "Crawdad" (Lily has brought a box full from home). I asked them "Why did you share this and where did it come from?"(in a very Montessori way) Lola said "It came from the ditch" and Lily said "I have it because it's cool and I wanted to bring it to show my class." See how easy it is!!

Each classroom has an area for children to share their discoveries and gems from Nature. They are able to study their artifacts and learn about others as they are introduced to various objects. This study of Botany and Zoology reminds the child of their interconnectedness with Nature and the importance of taking care of things in the environment-both outside and inside. They begin to understand that the relationship we share with the physical environment is aligned with our spiritual and emotional relationship with the Earth-this is our home and we must take care of it! I hope this inspires you to do something in Nature over the next few days...take photos and bring them in to me... I would love to create a poster board that can exemplify what happens outside of the walls of our school and how it aligns with the Montessori practice...so enjoy your time and take pictures!! Kind Regards, Miss Debbie