Seven Montessori Activities with What You Own

Seven hands-on activities and five ready-to-print card sets.

> Ten pages. Print only what you need. Use the household objects listed on each activity page.

1. Fabric texture pair

2. Spoon water between bowls

3. Match a cup and a spoon

4. Count five spoons

5. Look closely at one leaf

6. Put a snack in order

7. Build five household words

For an adult and child to use together. Choose an activity for the child in front of you, not by a promised age or outcome.

Includes object cards, numbers 1 to 5, a leaf guide, a snack sequence, and five word cards with letter tiles.

Prepare one activity, not the whole pack.

1. **Choose.** Read one page in full. Gather its listed objects and check that the setup is suitable for the child and your space.
2. **Print.** Use A4 or US Letter paper to match this file. Print at actual size (100%), single-sided. No colour printing, lamination or purchases are required.
3. **Prepare.** An adult cuts along dashed borders. Keep each set together. All cut-out activities can instead be used by pointing at the intact page.
4. **Show.** Demonstrate slowly, then offer a turn. A child can watch, point or stop. Repeat only while the activity is welcome.
5. **Reset.** Return objects and cards to their container. Keep one word or number card in use at a time so the supplied materials are enough.

> **Small parts stay out of reach.** Cut cards and letter tiles are small loose parts. Do not give them to children under three or to anyone who mouths objects. Use the intact page held by an adult, or choose a cloth activity instead.

> **An adult stays present.** Check objects for damage. Keep scissors and knives with the adult. Stay within reach during the water activity, wipe spills, and empty bowls afterwards. For the snack, the adult does all cutting.

The activity pages are invitations, not assessments. There is no need to complete them in order or record a child's details. Source and preparation notes are on page 10.

Fabric texture pair

GATHER

- A clean cotton cloth
- A clean terry cloth
- A shallow basket

TRY IT TOGETHER

1. Place the two cloths side by side on a clear surface.
2. Feel each cloth yourself. Name what you notice, such as smooth or bumpy.
3. Offer one cloth at a time, or let the child compare both. Do not require a particular response.
4. Fold the cloths and return them to the basket together.

Prepare: Use intact cloths without loose threads or decorations. Keep cloths away from the face.



Repeat without adding more.

Use the same objects and the same setup. Offer another turn, or put everything away. No printable pieces are needed for this activity.

Ask, if useful: Which cloth would you like to feel again?

Spoon water between bowls

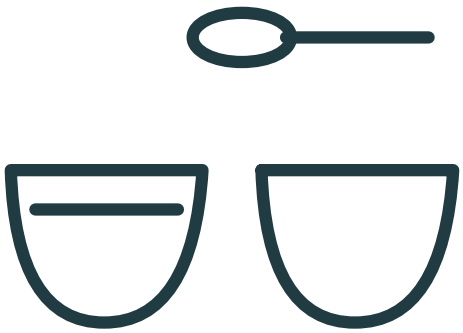
GATHER

- Two stable shallow bowls
- A tablespoon
- A tray
- A cloth
- A small amount of water

TRY IT TOGETHER

1. Put the bowls close together on the tray. Add just enough water to one bowl to scoop with the spoon.
2. Show one slow scoop, move the spoon over the empty bowl, then tip the water in.
3. Offer a turn if appropriate. Keep both bowls on the tray and wipe spills as they happen.
4. Empty the bowls and dry the tray immediately after the activity.

Prepare: Stay within reach throughout. This starter version uses water rather than the dry grains in the source activity.



Repeat without adding more.

Use the same objects and the same setup. Offer another turn, or put everything away. No printable pieces are needed for this activity.

Ask, if useful: Can you move one spoonful without moving the bowls?

Match a cup and a spoon

GATHER

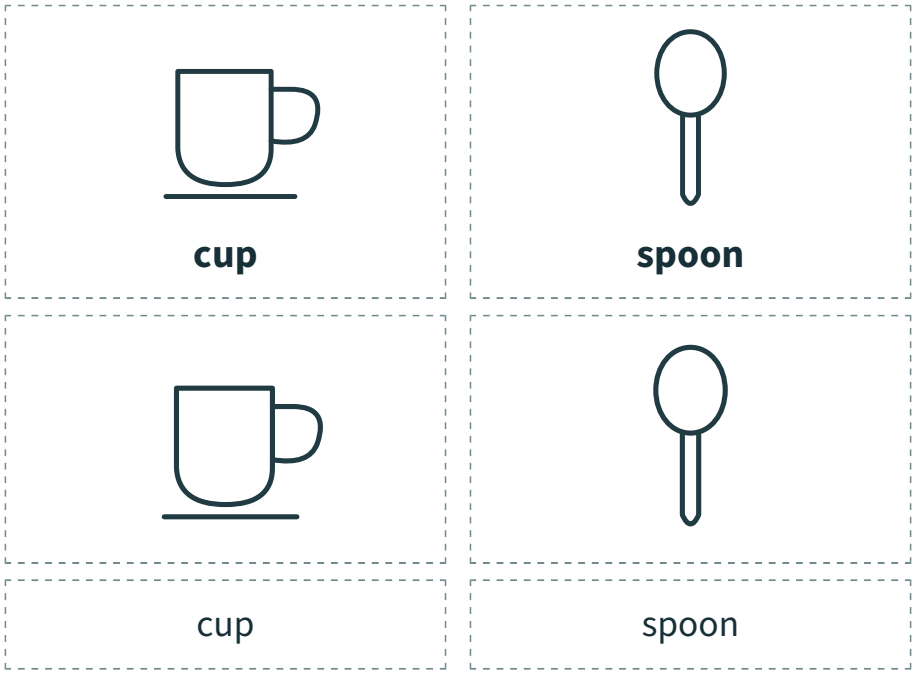
- A familiar cup
- A familiar spoon
- The six cards below

TRY IT TOGETHER

1. Adult preparation: cut around the six cards, or leave the page intact for pointing.
2. Put the real cup beside its picture card. Name the object, then repeat with the spoon.
3. Match each separate word card to its picture. An adult can read the words aloud.
4. Check each pair against the picture-and-word control card. Return all cards before repeating.

Prepare: The top row contains control cards, the middle row picture cards, and the bottom row word cards.

Adult cuts along dashed lines. For small-part precautions, see page 2. Pointing on the intact sheet also works.



Ask, if useful: Which picture belongs with this real object?

Count five spoons

GATHER

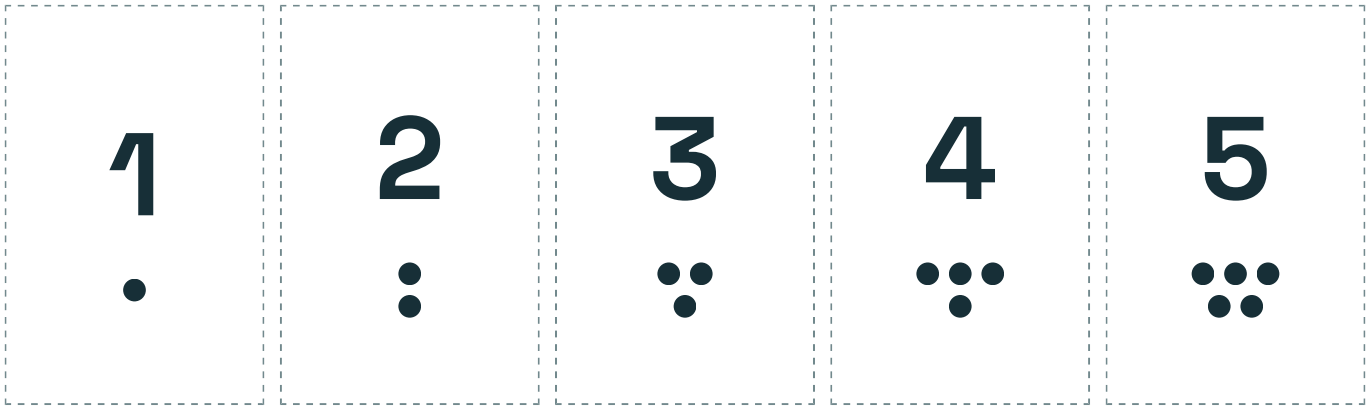
- Five spoons
- A tray
- The five number cards below

TRY IT TOGETHER

1. Adult preparation: cut out the cards or point to one number on the intact sheet.
2. Choose one card. Read the number together and touch each dot once.
3. Place that many spoons in a row, counting each spoon once as it is placed.
4. Return every spoon to the tray before choosing the next card. Five spoons are enough for every turn.

Prepare: Begin with one card. The dots provide a visible check, not a score or test.

Adult cuts along dashed lines. For small-part precautions, see page 2. Pointing on the intact sheet also works.



Ask, if useful: Does your row have one spoon for each dot?

Look closely at one leaf

GATHER

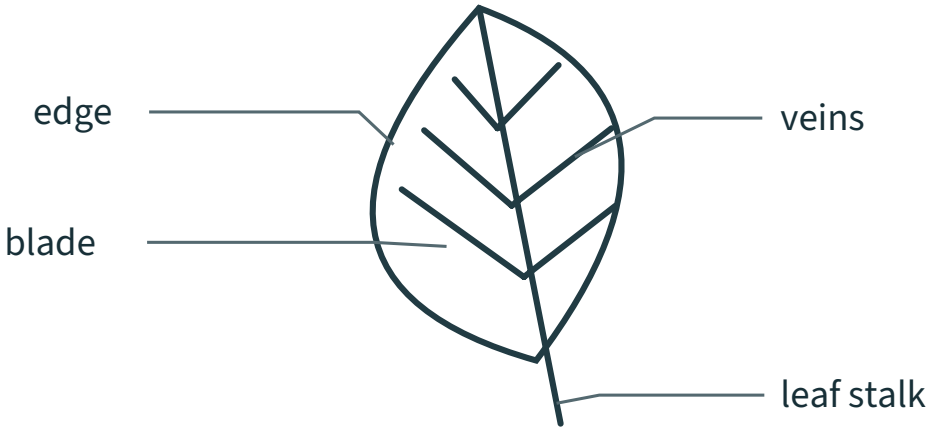
- One familiar fallen leaf with a leaf stalk
- The leaf guide and four labels below

TRY IT TOGETHER

1. Put the leaf beside the drawing. The drawing is an example; the real leaf may have a different shape.
2. Trace the edge with a finger, then look for the flat blade and the visible veins.
3. Find the leaf stalk that joins the blade to the plant. Use a different leaf if this part is missing.
4. Point to each label or place a cut label next to the matching feature. Return the labels after looking.

Prepare: An adult chooses a familiar leaf, checks it, and keeps it out of mouths. Wash hands after handling.

Adult cuts along dashed lines. For small-part precautions, see page 2. Pointing on the intact sheet also works.



blade	edge
veins	leaf stalk

Ask, if useful: Which features can you find on your leaf?

Put a snack in order

GATHER

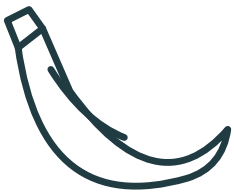
- The three sequence cards below
- A banana if suitable for your household
- A plate

TRY IT TOGETHER

1. Use the cards alone first. Point to peel, slice, then serve, and describe the order.
2. Adult preparation: cut out and mix the cards, or use the intact page for pointing.
3. Arrange the cards in order. If making the snack, use food already suitable for the child.
4. An adult handles the knife and all slicing. The child can point to the next card or help place prepared pieces on the plate.

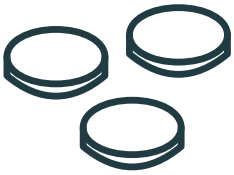
Prepare: The knife stays with the adult. Use the cards without food if any ingredient or food task is unsuitable.

Adult cuts along dashed lines. For small-part precautions, see page 2. Pointing on the intact sheet also works.



1. Peel

Remove the skin.



2. Slice

Adult does all cutting.



3. Serve

Place prepared pieces on a plate.

Ask, if useful: What comes before serving?

Build five household words

GATHER

- The five word cards below
- The letter tiles below
- Paper and a pencil if wanted

TRY IT TOGETHER

1. Adult preparation: cut the word cards and letter tiles, or keep the sheet intact for pointing.
2. Choose one picture-and-word card. Name its object together.
3. Find the matching letters and place them in the same left-to-right order as the word.
4. Return every tile before choosing another word. The supplied tiles are enough for one word at a time. Copy a word onto paper only if wanted.

Prepare: Use uppercase letters exactly as shown. Real objects are optional; all five picture-and-word cards are supplied.

Adult cuts along dashed lines. For small-part precautions, see page 2. Pointing on the intact sheet also works.



CUP



HAT



BAG



LID



PAN

Letter tiles: return them after each word.

A	B	C	D	G	H
I	L	N	P	T	U

Ask, if useful: Which letter will you place first?

Everything has a place.

Complete household list: Two clean cloths and a shallow basket; two stable shallow bowls, a tablespoon, a tray, a wiping cloth and a small amount of water; a familiar cup, five spoons and a familiar fallen leaf with its stalk. Print the needed pages on paper. Adult scissors are needed only if cutting cards. Optional: a banana and plate, an adult-held knife for slicing, plus paper and pencil for writing.

Keep the sets complete

- Object set: two control cards, two pictures, two word labels.
- Number set: cards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- Leaf set: one labelled guide and four word labels.
- Snack set: peel, slice and serve.
- Word set: CUP, HAT, BAG, LID, PAN and twelve letter tiles.

Reset after each turn

- Return all spoons before choosing another number.
- Return all letter tiles before building another word.
- Store cut pieces away from young children.
- Dry the tray and empty the water bowls.
- Keep food preparation and cutting with the adult.

The starter adapts seven activities from the Dr Montessori household activity collection. Its spoon-transfer version uses water; its snack sequence keeps all knife work with the adult. The diagrams are original illustrative drawings, not photographs or specimens.

Notes behind the preparation guidance

Small parts: Health Canada's Is Your Child Safe? advises keeping small loose parts away from children under three and older children who still put objects in their mouths.

Kitchen participation: University of Illinois Extension, Kids in the Kitchen, discusses adult supervision and tasks suited to the individual child. This pack chooses adult-only cutting.

Leaf vocabulary: University of Minnesota, The Science of Plants: Leaves, describes the blade and petiole (leaf stalk). The guide also names the edge and visible veins; a real leaf's shape can differ.

Dr Montessori is an independent editorial project. No sign-up is needed to use this pack. More reading: drmontessori.com/start/.