

*“Adults work to finish a task, but the child works in order to grow and is working to create the adult, the person that is to be.”*

*~Maria Montessori*

## ***Practical Life***

Developing new skills that will enable us to live full and productive lives is something that all of us encounter throughout the years. It's not just a process for the very young.

Competence, independence, willingness to embrace the challenges of change is, quite possibly, the most important building blocks of the Montessori Method. In Montessori, we provide opportunities to help our children learn these skills at the most basic level: Practical Life.

Shoelaces learn to be tied; however, knots do happen. Liquids get spilled during pouring. Spooning exercises might run amok at the beginning with beans or marbles strewn on the floor. But that's OK in a Montessori classroom. It's not failure; it's an opportunity to practice and refine skills, while taking responsibility for restoring order and caring for the classroom environment. Montessori provides a safe environment to experiment and learn without fear of embarrassment or reprimand. The 'oops factor' is an expected, and necessary, part of the process. As adults, we know how tempting it is to play it safe and only do what we know how to do well. It takes courage and self-confidence to risk the awkwardness of trying something new: whether it's pouring water from a child-sized pitcher or learning to play tennis as an adult.

At the Campus School, practical life activities are the foundation of the growing work cycle with focus on daily living skills, fine motor development, snack and food preparation and grace and courtesy. Peace and Movement are included under the Practical Life umbrella; however, each has its own curricular area.