Montessori Oaks' Infant Spanish Immersion Curriculum

Ages 6 weeks to 12 Months

Montessori Spanish Curriculum for Infants

Age Group: Infants (6 weeks - 12 months)

Introduction:
Introducing infants to the Spanish language in a Montessori-inspired way is a wonderful opportunity to lay the foundation for multilingualism and cultural appreciation from the earliest age. Even if the teachers are not fluent in Spanish, they can create a rich language environment by using simple and consistent techniques that align with Montessori principles.

Goals:
- Expose infants to the sounds and rhythms of the Spanish language.
- Foster an early love for language and multiculturalism.
- Encourage sensory exploration and motor skill development through hands-on activities.

Materials Needed:
1. **Multilingual Books:** Choose board books with simple Spanish words and colorful pictures.
2. **Art Cards:** Create simple cards with images of common objects (e.g., apple, ball, cat) labeled in Spanish.
3. **Songs and Rhymes:** Prepare a list of Spanish nursery rhymes and songs.
4. **Montessori Mobiles:** Incorporate mobiles with colorful objects to engage visual and auditory senses.
5. **Texture Baskets:** Include textured objects like fabrics and toys to stimulate tactile senses.
6. **Multilingual Environment:** Label everyday objects in both English and Spanish.

Weekly Curriculum:

Week 1-2: Sensory Exploration
- Introduce infants to the Spanish language during daily routines like feeding and diapering.
- Use texture baskets with soft, fuzzy, and smooth objects to explore touch and sensation.
- Engage in gentle massage while singing Spanish lullabies.

Week 3-4: Visual Stimulation
- Hang Montessori mobiles with Spanish-themed elements.
- Use art cards with labeled objects, narrating in both English and Spanish.
- Encourage infants to focus on the visuals and practice eye tracking.

Week 5-6: Auditory Development
- Play soft Spanish music during playtime and naps.

- Recite nursery rhymes in Spanish, emphasizing the rhythmic quality of the language.
- Maintain a soothing tone while engaging in conversations in both languages.

Week 7-8: Language Exposure
- Read multilingual books with simple Spanish phrases.
- Label objects in the environment with bilingual tags.
- Engage in simple conversations in English and Spanish.

Daily Routine:
- Morning Greetings: Begin each day with a cheerful "¡Buenos días!" (Good morning).
- Mealtime: Use Spanish words like "comida" (food) and "agua" (water) during feedings.
- Diapering: Describe the process in both languages, e.g., "Cambiando el pañal" (Changing the diaper).
- Naptime: Sing lullabies in Spanish while soothing infants to sleep.
- Playtime: Encourage exploration of multilingual materials and textures.
- Storytime: Read a short bilingual story during quiet moments.

Teacher's Role:
- Maintain a calm and nurturing atmosphere.
- Encourage interaction with materials without overwhelming them.
- Emphasize consistency in language use.
- Observe and respond to infants' cues and preferences.

Conclusion:
This Montessori-inspired Spanish curriculum for infants offers a gentle and immersive introduction to the Spanish language. It creates a nurturing environment where language, sensory exploration, and cultural appreciation are seamlessly integrated into daily routines. While fluency is not required, consistent exposure to Spanish sounds and words can lay a strong foundation for future language development.

Resources:

- Nursery rhymes
    - Little Chickies/Los Polloitos: YouTube: Canticos | Little Chickies / Los Pollitos Book Reading with Susie Jaramillo, author and illustrator
    - Debajo un botón: https://www.mamalisa.com/?t=es&p=543
    - Cinco Lobitos: The wolf with five cubs: https://www.mamalisa.com/?t=es&p=1789