

Montessori shelf plan for age 2

At 2, a Montessori shelf holds a few real tasks and the first Sensorial work. Hand washing, pouring and the knobbed cylinders can start early in the year. The pink tower and the first sandpaper letters usually wait until about 2.5. Here they are in order, each with its lesson and a make-or-buy note.



PRESENT FIRST Hand Washing, 15 months to 3.5 years, the youngest starting age on this shelf.

#	WORK	MAKE OR BUY	BUY, USD	PRESENTED ON
1	Hand Washing ☐ Practical Life · 15 months to 3.5 years · Hand-Washing Station At the family sink with a sturdy step stool. Nothing to buy.	Make it	\$146 to \$577	_____
2	Dry Pouring Between Two Pitchers ☐ Practical Life · 18 months to 3.5 years · Small Pouring Pitchers Creamer jugs from the kitchen. Use beans big enough to be safe if one goes in the mouth.	Make it	\$8 to \$34	_____
3	Spooning: Transferring with a Spoon ☐ Practical Life · 18 months to 3.5 years · Spooning Set	Make it	\$30 to \$30	_____
4	Wet Pouring Between Two Pitchers ☐ Practical Life · 2 to 4 years · Small Pouring Pitchers	Make it	\$8 to \$34	_____
5	Grace and Courtesy Lessons ☐ Practical Life · 2 to 6 years	Nothing to buy		_____
6	Knobbed Cylinders ☐ Sensorial · 2 to 4 years · Knobbed Cylinders One block is enough to start. Better bought than made: the fit has to be exact.	Buy it	\$40 to \$311	_____
7	Button Dressing Frame ☐ Practical Life · 2.5 to 4.5 years · Button Dressing Frame From about 2.5. An old picture frame and two pieces of cotton make one.	Either	\$16 to \$47	_____
8	Sweeping with a Brush and Dustpan ☐ Practical Life · 2.5 to 5 years · Child-Sized Sweeping Set	Make it	\$7 to \$20	_____
9	Folding Cloths ☐ Practical Life · 2.5 to 5 years · Folding Cloths	Make it	\$18 to \$18	_____

8 more works for age 2 are on homeschoolmontessori.com/by-age/2, which lists the whole shelf in order.

Leave off the shelf for now

- **The number rods and the golden beads.** They start at 3.5 and 4 in the sequence. The longest number rod is 1 m long. The golden beads build on the counting the rods teach.
- **Flashcards and drills on letter names.** Montessori language work starts with spoken words. The sounds of letters come next, through the sandpaper letters, from about 2.5 here. Before that, name real things around the house.
- **Small loose pieces, for a child who still mouths things.** Dried beans for pouring and the 1 cm pink tower cube are small enough to choke on. Use bigger pieces, or wait until the mouthing's over.

Make or buy is for the main material of each work. Prices are approximate ranges for a home set, noted on the date above; check before you buy. Each work's page on homeschoolmontessori.com has the presentation step by step, and homeschoolmontessori.com/by-age/3 has the next shelf.