
FINDING MONTESSORI ACTIVITIES AND FURNITURE

We often get asked where we find the beautiful furniture, activities, and supplies in our classrooms and homes.

1. Look local—we love to support local businesses, and the eco footprint is much smaller than shopping online. Have a local woodworker build some shelves; retired neighbors may enjoy making patchwork balls and mobiles; and look for baskets at charity/thrift stores.
2. Buy secondhand—our homes do not need to look like a classroom or catalog; secondhand furniture and wooden toys can get a second life in our homes.
3. Use what we have—once we have learned about the Montessori approach, we look at things differently: We can repurpose a simple wooden box; we can use everyday items for exploration and language; some of our baby's favorite items may not be from a toy store, but from our kitchen cupboards.
4. Keep our eyes open—we make wonderful discoveries in regular homewares stores. For example, a box to open and close, an item that has a nice noise or material to explore, or items that can be repurposed, such as a wooden mug holder in which Solu can place bangle bracelets.
5. That Swedish place—a few basics from places like IKEA mixed with other items allows us to work within a budget while maintaining our home's personal character. IKEA has some suitable low shelving, tables and chairs, and book ledges and hooks, as well as items for the kitchen and bathroom.
6. Make items ourselves—babies master skills quickly, so rather than buying expensive wooden toys, we can create activities, like posting with a ping pong ball and shoebox.
7. Rent instead of buy, or share with like-minded families—search online parent groups for anyone interested in rotating or trading toys. We may be able to find a toy rental company that also has Montessori activities. At the end of the month, we can return the activities and receive new ones for our baby to try.
8. Sign up for a subscription box—if our budget allows, consider a Montessori subscription box service like Monti Kids. These subscription services are not essential to being a Montessori family, but they do make finding Montessori activities easy.
9. Use the directory on Simone's website, *The Montessori Notebook*, for an updated list of her favorite stores (themontessorinotebook.com/free-resources).