



Effective Communication with Your Child

Montessori House of West Linn

A Montessori guide for families with children ages 2–6

A Message from Montessori House of West Linn

At Montessori House of West Linn, we believe that respectful communication is the foundation of strong relationships and healthy emotional development. The way we speak to children—and listen to them—shapes how they see themselves and how they learn to communicate with others.

This guide offers practical, Montessori-aligned strategies to help families foster clear, respectful, and meaningful communication at home.

Why Communication Matters

Effective communication helps children:

- Feel seen, heard, and respected
- Develop emotional intelligence
- Build vocabulary and language skills
- Learn problem-solving and self-regulation
- Form secure and trusting relationships

When children feel understood, they are more likely to cooperate and express themselves calmly.

Montessori Principles for Communication

Montessori communication is built on respect, clarity, and connection.

- Speak to the child at eye level
- Use a calm, neutral tone
- Give clear and simple instructions
- Model the language you want your child to use

Children absorb not only *what* we say, but *how* we say it.



Listening with Intention

Listening is just as important as speaking.

- Pause and give your full attention
- Avoid interrupting or finishing sentences
- Acknowledge feelings before responding
- Reflect back what you hear

Example: > “You’re upset because the toy broke. That’s disappointing.”

Feeling understood helps children calm themselves.

Using Positive, Clear Language

Say What You *Want* to See

Instead of focusing on what not to do, clearly state expectations.

- Instead of: “Don’t run.”
Say: “Please walk indoors.”
- Instead of: “Stop yelling.”
Say: “Use a quiet voice.”

Clear language gives children tools for success.

Giving Choices

Offering limited choices supports independence and cooperation.

Examples: - “Would you like the red cup or the blue cup?” - “Do you want to put on your shoes first or your jacket?”

Choices should always be: - Age-appropriate - Limited (2 options) - Acceptable to the adult

Acknowledging Feelings

Children experience big emotions and need language to express them.

- Name emotions: “You look frustrated.”



- Validate feelings without judgment
- Separate feelings from behavior

Example: > “It’s okay to feel angry. It’s not okay to hit.”

This helps children learn emotional regulation.

Encouraging Problem-Solving

Instead of immediately fixing problems, guide children to think.

- “What do you think we can do?”
- “Would you like help or would you like to try again?”
- “What happened, and what could we try next time?”

This builds confidence and independence.

The Power of Modeling

Children learn communication by watching adults.

- Use polite language (please, thank you)
- Apologize when needed
- Speak respectfully even during conflict

Modeling teaches far more than lectures.

Common Challenges (and Montessori Responses)

“My child ignores me.”

Gain eye contact, use fewer words, and ensure understanding before repeating.

“My child talks back.”

Stay calm and model respectful language. Set clear boundaries.

“My child has tantrums.”

Acknowledge feelings first; problem-solve later when calm.

How to Use This Guide at Home

- Practice one communication strategy at a time



- Be consistent across caregivers
- Give yourself grace—learning takes time

Strong communication grows through daily practice.

Montessori House of West Linn

Committed to respectful partnerships, diversity, equity, and inclusion, clear communication, and high-quality Montessori education where every child belongs.

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