


Slide 1

Montessori Home Engagement Course

Module 4:  
Advancing Practice  
Filling More GAP's



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Slide 2

Preparing the Environment Recap:



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Slide 3

Quick Review:

You fill the Montessori GAP

- Grace and Courtesy
- Activities
- Prepared Environment



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Slide 4

### Recap: Grace and Courtesy

- The Goal: Respectful, engaging communication
- The Zone: Touch, level, tone
- Listening: Patiently and openly



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### Recap: Activities

As a Montessori Engagement Professional, you...



To develop activities that are:

- Independence-focused
- Purposeful and meaningful **to the client**
- Maximize movement and manipulation

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### Recap

<b>Engagement Professionals use...</b>	<b>...and modify it for independence through...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Space and stuff</li><li>• Sights</li><li>• Sounds</li><li>• Smells</li><li>• Touch</li><li>• Tastes</li><li>• Time</li><li>• Emotions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>C</b>alm-creating</li><li>• <b>O</b>rganizing for Independence</li><li>• <b>L</b>abeling stuff, time and people</li><li>• <b>L</b>ighting and contrasting</li><li>• <b>D</b>istracting-reducing</li></ul>

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### Why We Do It

"Our care...should be governed, not by the desire to make a person learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence."  
- Dr. Maria Montessori



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### How We Do It

- Experiment with using *non-judgmental observation*...
- Along with **Grace and Courtesy** and our **Prepared Environment** habits...
- To plan **activities** that...
  - Maximize movement and manipulation
  - Engage the client with nature
  - Engage the client with community
  - Involve creativity

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Slide 9

### Observing without Judgment... Identify Strengths



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Taking the GAP to the Next Level



Observation is the key to Montessori practice.  
Observing *without judgment* is the key to advanced Montessori practice.

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Observe Without Judgment

Scenario 1:

Every time you walk into a home, the client says, "Why do you come to work without combing your hair?"  
She also frequently says, "you're fat, you know."

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Observe Without Judgment

- Acknowledge your feelings and set them aside to return to later
- Focus observation on what happened before and is present around the behavior
- Allow a little mess or confusion if it helps you observe a little longer
- You will make judgments - decisions about how and when to support a client, or adapt an activity - but wait to observe first

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**Observation without Judgment Practice**  
Practice 1

A client turns her back on you when you enter the home, refuses to greet you despite your best effort to speak positively to her.

You continue speaking positively, make small talk, hang up your coat, and unpack the materials you've brought for an activity.

The client continues to avoid making eye contact and turns away. You can hear her daughter in the entryway, getting ready to leave.

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**Observation without Judgment Practice**  
Practice 2

A client's house smells like pets and a food smell you can't stand. The house is always a mess when you arrive, no matter how many times you do organizing activities with the client. The client's son lives with her but stays in a bedroom while you work. You smell him smoking. The client always greets you cheerfully.

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**Observe Strengths**



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Slide 17

Domains of Strengths

ACTIVITY:	Sensory	Motor	Cognitive	Social

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Extending  
Grace and Courtesy in  
Activity Planning  
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**Grace and Courtesy Practice:  
Acting on Observable Strengths**

CLIENT PROFILE: A 78-year-old man, a widower, with physical limitations related to knee and hip problems. He has had a hip replacement and may need another one. He is a retired engineer without an extensive social network. No children or grandchildren living nearby. He likes to read and has literally hundreds of books throughout his apartment...on shelves, most surfaces, and stacked beside his living room sofa and chair. He does not cook much for himself, ordering in meals or relying on prepared frozen foods which he orders directly from markets. His clothing often has food stains which he does not notice. He has a cleaning woman once a week but she is not allowed to move anything or throw anything away. He wears thick glasses which he misplaces regularly. He can be grumpy. His daughter has hired you.

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**Montessori Activities:  
Planning with Family**

Discuss:

What activities might you be able to do without asking a family member, and what is an activity you need to seek their approval or buy-in for?

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**Discuss**

What situations have you encountered that required grace and courtesy with family and with a client in order to move beyond just caring to engaging a client?

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### Advanced Montessori Activity



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### Revisiting Module 1 Pictures:



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### Montessori Activities: Offering

- Use Grace and Courtesy
- Model
- Helper language better than activity language
- Thanks!
- It is always a client's choice to do an activity
- Present activity to make it attractive but without over-enthusiasm
- Be willing to accept "no" for an answer
- Have a Plan B

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**Montessori Activities:  
Modeling**



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**Model**

"Do not **tell** them how to do it. **Show** them how to do it and do not say a word. If you tell them, they will watch your lips move. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves."

- Dr. Maria Montessori



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**Montessori Activities...**

Whenever possible, engage

- Movement and Manipulation
- Nature
- Community
- Creativity

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Slide 29




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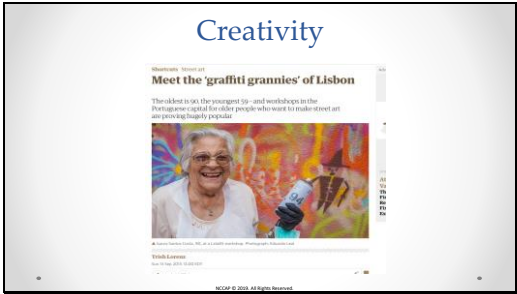


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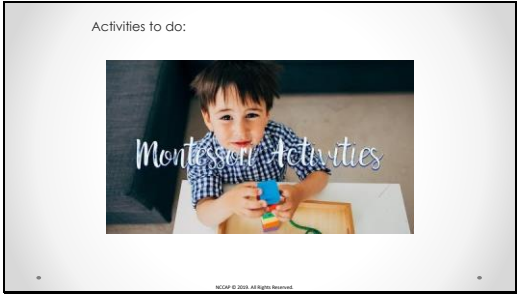


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Slide 32



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Slide 33



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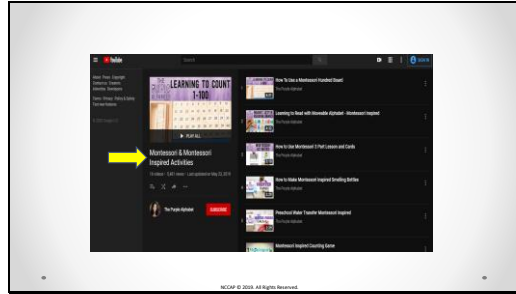
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Slide 35

### Sustained Practice:

- Develop an activity choice with a partner. The activity choice should...
  - Take into account a client's strengths
  - Involve at least one of the targets of nature, community, creativity, movement and manipulation
- When you present to the group, be ready to explain:
  - What observation it is based on
  - How you will prepare the environment, and what you will need to think about not doing during the activity, to maximize your client's independent practice of the activity
  - Which strengths it exercises, and why
  - How you will present it with grace and courtesy to the client
  - What you might reflect on after the activity to adapt it for the next use

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### Sustained Practice

#### Look-Fors

Give positives and "maybe try" feedback based on:

- Judgment-free observation shapes activity
- Grace and courtesy
- Independence is facilitated
- Involves nature, community or creativity, and involves movement or manipulation
- Demonstrates knowledge of the domains of strengths
- Focuses on strengths, not deficits
- Recognizes the possibility of "foul balls," and demonstrates an observe-and-adapt persistence

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## Extending and Refining

You are now ready to put the most important Montessori ideas into practice. And this is truly *practice* - clients' needs and our experiences change daily.

Each of the three GAP's has many dimensions which you can develop through peer and facilitator coaching and feedback, as well as watching other engagement caregivers.

Other Montessori ideas to explore include:

- Control of Error
- Three-Step Lessons
- Movement from Concrete to Abstract

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*"Development is a series of rebirths."*

- Dr. Maria Montessori



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**NEXT STEPS FOR THE STUDENT**

1. EVERY student must take a post assessment <http://tactool.com/q/nhec-post-assessment>
2. Every student must take the survey. This will be provided on the confirmation at the completion of the post assessment.

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