## **Contents**

| Introduction                             | 9  |
|--|----|
| Maria Montessori                         | 11 |
| The Montessori Method of Education       | 12 |
| The prepared environment                 | 12 |
| The free work                            | 13 |
| Call character                           | 13 |
| Contextual learning                      | 14 |
| Control of error                         | 14 |
| Interest-based learning                  | 14 |
| Polarization of attention                | 15 |
| Sensitive period                         | 15 |
| Intrinsic motivation                     | 16 |
| Learning with the activity trays         | 17 |
| Activity trays with a focus on           |    |
| the development stages                   | 17 |
| The purpose of the activity trays        | 19 |
| Why does Montessori use trays?           | 19 |
| How do I sort the materials on the tray? | 20 |
| What materials are best suited?          | 21 |
| How do I offer the activity trays        |    |
| to the children?                         | 23 |
| Which subjects are currently suitable    |    |
| for the child?                           | 23 |
| Variation of the level of difficulty?    | 23 |
| Activity tray                            | 25 |
| 1. Fine motor skills                     | 27 |
| Pasta threading                          | 29 |
| Spooning rice                            | 31 |
| Sand trickle                             | 33 |
| Scissor skills                           | 35 |



| Rock painting               | 3/ |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Egg carton filling          | 39 |
| Piggy bank game             | 41 |
| Hedgehog dress              | 43 |
| Clothespin pictures         | 45 |
| Pipette game                | 47 |
| Motor skills roll           | 49 |
| Sew curved lines            | 51 |
| Into the nest               | 53 |
| Threading a necklace        | 55 |
| Dripping dots               | 57 |
| 2. Sorting and arranging    | 59 |
| Filling the shapes          | 61 |
| Colored clothespins         | 63 |
| Bolt activity               | 65 |
| Catch the bean              | 67 |
| Colorful seeds              | 69 |
| Search for traces           | 71 |
| Needle in a haystack        | 73 |
| Color nests                 | 75 |
| Inserting colors            | 77 |
| Pot and lid                 | 79 |
| Laying eggs                 | 81 |
| Connect color sequence      | 83 |
| Polka dots                  | 85 |
| Logical rows                | 87 |
| Same shape                  | 89 |
| 3. Practical life exercises | 91 |
| Coin sorting                | 93 |
| Hang clothes                | 95 |
| Wood polishing              | 97 |
| Polishing cutlery           | 99 |
|                             |    |

| Washing toys Mirror polishing Sweeping rice Polishing shoes Folding towels Sorting cutlery Tying shoelaces Using a mortar and pestle Sock sorting Open and close Spooning grains  | 101<br>103<br>105<br>107<br>109<br>111<br>113<br>115<br>117<br>119                                    |
|---|---|
|   |   |
| 4. World experience and cause-and-effect Natural confetti Bubbles Magnet game Laying faces Sifting noodles Sand painting Sponge press Hair cutting Sifting beans Chain pictures Sponge bridge Light shows Magnified view Blow ball Spooning | 123<br>125<br>127<br>129<br>131<br>133<br>135<br>137<br>139<br>141<br>143<br>145<br>147<br>149<br>151 |
| 5. Geometry   | 155   |
| Laying cubes  | 157   |
| Bending symmetry  | 159   |
| Baking cookies  | 161   |
| Elastic band shapes   | 163   |
|   |   |

| Sewing shapes                  | 165 |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Gluing geometry                | 167 |
| Dropping shapes                | 169 |
| Cotton swab geometry           | 171 |
| Bead shapes                    | 173 |
| Symmetry sticks                | 175 |
| Shape dominoes                 | 177 |
| Cutting geometry               | 179 |
| Symmetry puzzle                | 181 |
| Shapes and body                | 183 |
| Forest of shapes               | 185 |
| 6. Mathematics                 | 187 |
| Red number string              | 189 |
| Quantity comparison            | 191 |
| Matching numbers to quantities | 193 |
| Sand numbers                   | 195 |
| Spoon scale                    | 197 |
| Cube pictures                  | 199 |
| Red rods                       | 201 |
| 1-2-3 stones                   | 203 |
| Number roll                    | 205 |
| Threading numbers              | 207 |
| Number cactus                  | 209 |
| Before and after               | 211 |
| Pie slices                     | 213 |
| Quantity exercise              | 215 |
| Numbers shashlik               | 217 |
| Key learning areas             | 219 |
| Notes                          | 220 |
| About the author               | 221 |