

Sandpaper Numerals

Prior Knowledge:

Child should have prior knowledge of the following before doing work with the sandpaper numerals:

Materials:

- Set of sandpaper numerals. These can be purchased at Montessori supply websites, ebay, and you can even find templates to make your own by searching the web. Many times, sandpaper letters are even available at a local teacher store.

Instructions:

This is the First Period of the Three Period Lesson on the introduction of the sandpaper letters.

1. Invite the child to the lesson once they have prior experience with activities listed above.
2. Choose two numbers from the sandpaper numerals such as '1' and '2'.
3. Place the numbers on the workspace on your non-dominant side. The child should sit on your dominant-hand side (ex: If you are right-handed, the child should sit on your right side. If you are left-handed, the child should sit on your left side).
4. Take one of the two numbers and place it in the middle of the workspace.
5. Model for the child how to trace the number correctly. Use the hand position shown in the picture below to trace the number (this hand position is important in the child's muscular memory learning of letter formation). Move your hand slowly over the number. Do this in a peaceful, yet interested manner. The child will be motivated by your interest in the material. If you seem interested, they are more likely to be interested in the work. Do not rush the process. Repeat this several times.
6. Say the name of the number each time you trace or 'feel' it. Invite the child to trace or 'feel' the number and to repeat the name of the number.
7. Repeat the process with the second number.
8. Continue to present each of the two numbers randomly to the child as long as the child is showing interest. If the child is forming the numbers correctly and is interested, you can proceed to the 2nd period of the lesson. If the child is not forming the numbers correctly or has lost interest, end the lesson with a "Thank you" and try again at a later time.

This is the Second Period of the Three Period Lesson on the introduction of sounds using the sandpaper numbers.

1. Place both numbers in front of the child and say "Feel '1'."

2. If the child chooses the wrong number, stop the lesson with a “thank you” and go back to the first period lesson with the child at a later time. Do not correct the child.
3. If the child chooses the correct number, say “Feel ‘2’.” End the lesson if a child makes errors or if there is a lack of interest.

This is the Third Period of the Three Period Lesson on the introduction of sounds using the sandpaper numbers.

1. Place one number in front of the child and the other out of the sight of the child. Review the number names by asking the child to ‘feel’ each number and say each number name.
 2. Lay the cards beside each other and say to the child...
“Where is ‘1’?” “Where is ‘2’?”
 3. Pick up the two cards and pretend to scramble them and place them back down on the workspace and then say to the child...
“Find ‘1’?” “Find ‘2’?”
- If a child is unsuccessful at a certain period, begin lesson with previous period before progressing to the one which the child was unsuccessful.
 - It may take many lessons before a child reaches the third period. Do not rush the process.
 - At the end of every lesson, tell the child that this lesson can be requested at any time by the teacher. The child should not be invited to do this lesson independently until he/she has mastered the correct formation of the numbers.
 - Present the numbers two at a time.