



# Let's Talk About Our Day: A tool to help parents share their child's Montessori experience.



**You've chosen Montessori for your child because it helps them become capable and well-rounded individuals who are lifelong learners and doers.**

But Montessori may not be like the education you received, and that might make it hard for you to share your child's experience and talk about how they are doing in school. We've developed this guide to help you connect with your Montessori student, learn about their experiences, and grow together.

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## Talking about your day invites them to talk about theirs.

Montessori students work individually and share their experiences and observations with others. One of the best ways to find out about their day is to tell them about yours. Talk about the interesting parts of your day in detail. These don't have to be significant moments—you can turn any part of your day into a topic for conversation. Include the who, what, where, your reactions, thought process, and/or emotions. In this way, you become a guide like their Montessori teacher, and they will likely engage you in a similar conversation about their day. Please be patient and let your child respond in their own time. The younger the child the more time they may need. Also, don't feel as though this always needs to be the first thing you say when you pick them up or greet them after school. Often these precious moments are spontaneous.

**Here is an example:**

- *"Let me tell you something that I saw on my way to work today.."*

**Your child may or may not decide to reciprocate. You could say:**

- *"Did anything like that happen to you?"*

## Create a conversation with guiding questions.

Parents can also use a similar style of questioning at home that Montessori teachers use as guides. We sometimes play a game with children called the “questions game.” The game consists of the same questions a reporter might ask— who, what, where, when, how, and why. Then, add in the other questions. Keep in mind the “why” question is often very difficult for children under the age of 6, and they may not be ready to answer just yet.



- **What** story did you hear today? **What** happened?
- **Who** told the story? Did anyone else hear the story, too?
- **How** did you feel about the story?
- **Where** did you hear the story?
- **When** did you hear the story?
- **Why** is this story important?

At the end of the questions, you can summarize the child’s answers using their information. For example, “So, this morning your teacher told a story. Lots of children came to hear the story, and you were one of them. You all sat together near the windows to listen to the story. The story was about \_\_\_\_\_. You thought the story was really funny...” continuing on until all details are included.

You’ve now modeled how to talk about an event that happens during the day and learned something about your child’s day. This type of communication is also an excellent pre-literacy experience. This type of modeling and practice helps your child understand how a story is created, leading to both oral storytelling and learning how to write sentences and paragraphs, as well as reliable reading comprehension when listening to or reading a story.

### Other sample topics include:

- New words
- New environments
- Meals and snacks
- Numbers
- Stories and songs

**This list is not exhaustive but may give you a few great leading questions to open up conversation naturally.**

You want to avoid rapid fire questions. Don’t worry if there are periods of silence or short answers. You’re both learning and exploring together.

## Want to learn more?

We also encourage you to bring your questions to your child’s teacher. Asking questions and building that connection is one of the best ways you can understand more about Montessori.

Visit [montessori-ami.org/resource-library/videos](https://montessori-ami.org/resource-library/videos) to watch videos about the practices of Montessori and see them in action.