

Parents Instructions-Folding Cloths

Materials: Basket or tray, square cloths, 12" x 12", each has different indicating lines marked with a colored pencil or marker, or sewn into the cloth with a contrasting thread. One cloth has no indicator line.

Purposes: Visual motor coordination, care of the environment, and preparation for Geometry.

Steps:

1. The child sits, you sit on his right side, and place the tray on the stool in front of you.
2. Take one cloth at a time from the tray with finger pinch on both corners closer to you; and place it in front of the child.
3. Fold the cloth; see next page, Cloths 1 to 5 for the specific steps for each one.
4. After each cloth is folded place it on the left side of the table. Line the cloths vertically from top to bottom.
5. When done with folding, show the child how to unfold and put them back in the tray, one by one.
 - a. Bring the last cloth folded in front of the child, taking it from one corner with finger pinch.
 - b. Lift it to the air to let it unfold.
 - c. Take the other corner with the other hand and place it in the tray.
 - d. Repeat until done with all the cloths.
6. Invite the child to do the exercise.
7. Fade and observe.
8. When completed, after all the repetitions he wants to do, remind him to put it back.

Notes:

- Avoid creasing.
- We fold from the bottom to the top so the lines appear automatically on the bottom once is folded.

Following Exercises:

- Folding napkins, placemats, other cloths, aprons, socks or any type of clothing; or papers

Links:

- Montessori Practical Life
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n72g9D5mfpY>
- A 2 Year Old Folds
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDdJxchwtbQ>
- Montessori Activity: Folding Clothes
<http://www.familyfecs.com/2013/08/montessori-activity-folding-clothes.html>

Cloth 1

1. Take cloth 1 by the one corner with finger pinch and take the other corner with the other hand with finger pinch; and place it in front of the child.
2. Rotate so the stitches are parallel to the edge of the table; Point the stitches all the way long without touching them.
3. Put one hand facing down to the upper part of the cloth, on the triangle over the stitches.
4. With the other hand take with finger pinch the corner pointing to the child; pause to look at it and bring it to the opposite corner; matching both corners.
5. Hold both corners and take out the hand.
6. Lift slightly the cloth to draw the attention to the stitches, pointing the line all the way through.
7. Put the folded cloth at the top left side of the table.

Cloth 2

1. Take cloth 2 by the left corner with finger pinch and take the other corner with the other hand; and place it in front of the child.
2. Rotate so the stitches are parallel to the edge of the table; Point the stitches all the way long without touching them.
3. Take left corner finger pinch with left hand and right corner finger pinch with right hand; pause and bring both corners to their opposite corners to match them.
4. Lift slightly the cloth to draw the attention to the stitches, pointing the line all the way through.
5. Put the folded cloth at the left side of the table, under Cloth 1.

Cloth 3

1. The same as Cloth 1
2. Rotate and repeat.
3. Put the folded cloth at the left side of the table, under Cloth 2.

Cloth 4

1. The same as Cloth 2
2. Rotate and repeat.
3. Put the folded cloth at the left side of the table, under Cloth 3.

Cloth 5

1. Take cloth 5 by the left corner with finger pinch, take the other corner with the other hand, and place it in front of the child.
2. Dialogue: "This one doesn't have stitches, I'm going to fold it however I want."
3. Fold it and put it at the end on the table, behind the others.