

**LD 12: The program facilitates and supports children's positive social and emotional development.**

**4 Star**

**Grace and Courtesy**

Maria Montessori developed experiences in Grace and Courtesy in support of the young child's need for order. As a child learns and can absorb the social structures in the classroom, she can be at ease in her environment. Grace and Courtesy lessons are rich in vocabulary, actions and the steps necessary in a particular situation so the child has a better sense of the social structure of the classroom.

Grace and Courtesy lessons focus on many topics. For example, children develop empathy by receiving Grace and Courtesy lessons on how to offer help to others and how to ask others for help, how to excuse yourself to step around your friend, and how to tell a friend, "Thank you."

To deepen self-regulation, a child receives Grace and Courtesy lessons on how to use a quiet voice to respect everyone's concentration in the classroom. This allows others to work without interruption. They also learn how to wait for a turn, how to respectfully watch someone else's work and how to carry a water pitcher.

As far as problem solving, important for the child's concentration, control of movement, and the smooth functioning of a classroom, a child learns how to roll a mat, how to walk around another child's work, how to push in a chair, how to gather in line, how to put away work when complete and more.

Here is an example of a Grace and Courtesy lesson on the simple action of walking around a rug. The classroom teacher, Guide, will gather some children, unroll a rug on the floor, and invite them to observe. She will model the actions of walking around the rug, mindful of not stepping on the rug and taking deliberate and careful steps. She will accentuate making the turn around the corners, going all the way around the rug. "Now, you know how to walk around a rug." Then, she invites the children to take a turn.