

Montessori Phrases for Toddlers

A Quick Reference Guide for Parents and Teachers

Transitions & Cooperation

- - It's time to...
- - First we clean up, then we go outside.
- - Would you like to carry your backpack or your lunchbox?
- - You may choose this or that.
- - Let's do it together, then you can try on your own.
- - We're almost done. One more turn.
- - When the timer rings, it will be time to stop.
- - I see it's hard to stop playing. Would you like to wave goodbye to your work?

Emotional Regulation

- - You're feeling really upset. I'm right here.
- - It's okay to feel mad. It's not okay to hit.
- - Let's take three big breaths together.
- - You can stomp your feet or squeeze a pillow.
- - Your feelings are big, and I can help you handle them.
- - It's hard when things don't go how we want.
- - You look frustrated. Would you like help or space?
- - We can talk more when your body is calm.

Setting Boundaries

- - I won't let you hurt your friend.
- - That's not safe. Let me show you another way.
- - I'm going to move this so no one gets hurt.
- - We don't throw things indoors. Let's roll it instead.
- - You may try again when you're ready to use gentle hands.
- - This isn't for throwing. Would you like to toss bean bags instead?
- - Your body needs to stay on this side of the gate.
- - If it's too hard to wait, I can help.

Encouragement & Confidence

- - You did it all by yourself!
- - You worked so hard on that.
- - I noticed you kept trying, even when it was tricky.
- - You figured out a new way!
- - That took a lot of concentration.
- - You remembered from yesterday!
- - You're really practicing your independence.
- - You're growing so strong and capable.

Everyday Guidance

- - The water stays in the sink.
- - We walk inside.
- - Your plate goes on the shelf.
- - Let's roll the rug up when we're done.
- - We use two hands to carry the tray.
- - Push your chair in when you're finished.
- - Let's try again with calm hands.
- - This is how we care for our things.