

The Tasting Bottles

A Montessori Sensorial Presentation — Lesson of the Day 105 · montessorimom.com

What You Need

Eight small identical dropper bottles (two each of four flavors), a tray, a few clean glass tasting spoons or droppers, a small cup of water and a cloth for rinsing between tastes. Prepare the four basic flavors: **sweet** (sugar water), **sour** (lemon water), **salty** (salt water), and **bitter** (unsweetened tonic or very dilute cocoa).

The Presentation, Step by Step

1. Carry the tray to the table and sit beside your child on their dominant-hand side.
2. Name the work: “This is the Tasting Bottles. We are going to taste and find the pairs.”
3. Place one bottle of each flavor in a row on the left; place its matching pair in a group on the right.
4. Take a clean spoon, place a single drop of the first left-hand flavor on the tip of your child’s tongue.
5. Pause. Let them notice. Offer a sip of water to clear the palate.
6. Invite your child to taste the right-hand bottles, one at a time, rinsing between each, to find the match.
7. Set each matched pair together. Continue until all four pairs are found.
8. Once matching is secure, give the language with the Three-Period Lesson: “This is sweet.” ... “Show me sour.” ... “What is this?”

The Four Flavor Families

Flavor	Prepare with	Everyday foods to extend
Sweet	Sugar dissolved in water	honey, ripe banana, pear
Sour	Fresh lemon juice in water	yogurt, green apple, pickle
Salty	A little salt in water	pretzel, cracker, cheese
Bitter	Very dilute cocoa or tonic	dark cocoa, grapefruit, kale

Control of Error & Tips

The matching itself is the control of error — a wrong pair simply won’t taste the same. Have your child hold their nose to discover how much “taste” is really smell, grade three strengths of one flavor from faintest to strongest, or add a blindfold for an older child. Best for children roughly three to six years old.