

Toddlers at Work

The photo series introduces the Young Children's Community (14 months to 2.5 years) and their slow paced environment filled with enriching opportunities for movement, language, and existing in a microcosmic society.

Child slicing potatoes for lunch

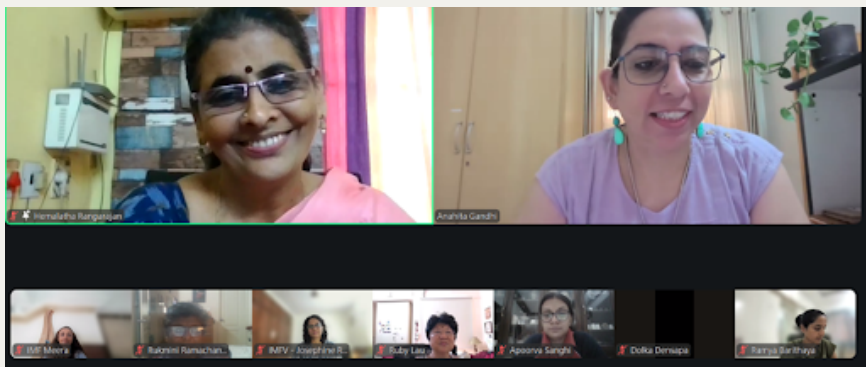
Photo Courtesy - Navadisha Montessori School



IMF Talk - 'Nourishing Body and Spirit - The Child's Journey with Food'

Meera Ghelani | Online

"If we create and foster a collaborative Montessori community, children are going to be happy and they can then live life in the best possible way that enables them to achieve their potentials"



September had AMI Primary Trainers Anahita Gandhi and Hemalatha Rangarajan addressing more than 280 participants about food not only meeting physical hunger but also psychological and emotional needs and being a link to love.

The session proved to be a heartwarming reminder of the importance of trusting children to navigate their relationship with food. Elementary guide E S Pavithra from Pune, was particularly struck by the idea that meal times are opportunities to pass down cultural values and create meaningful experiences. Sharing meals with children where we let them serve themselves and trust their hunger cues is a powerful way to bond and make them feel part of the family. *"And yes, making a mess was just part of the process!"* The speakers emphasized the value of guiding children to clean up and take responsibility, promoting mastery and independence.

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Indian Montessori Foundation IMF

IMF Volunteers Meet

IMF trustees, trainers and volunteers gathered in Chennai from across the country to discuss and exchange ideas for the upcoming Conference in January in Mumbai. The various teams under IMF - Events, TouchBoard, Social Media, School Connect, Montessori Matters, strived to work to present a memorable offering to the Montessori community.



AMI Assistants to Infancy Orientation Course

Swathi Raghav | Chennai

After many years the Birth to Three orientation course was back in Chennai at Supraja Montessori Study Centre in September with a small committed group. The course that spanned 60 hours, including observation, is a powerful introduction to the first three years of life. The participants were a mix who wanted to translate the ideas to both community and at home.

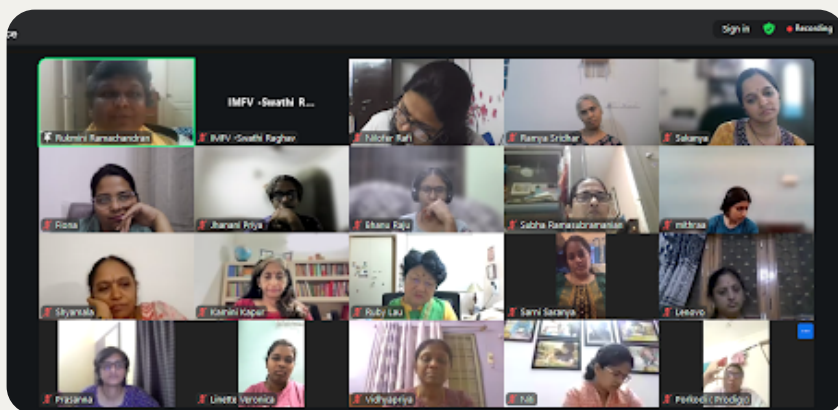
"AMI Auxiliary Trainer Kavya Chandrashekar offered a complete perspective on early childhood and enriched me as a parent and a guide to better understand and support the child" - Abhinaya Dhandapani



Talk – 'Education for Life'

Swathi Raghav | Chennai

On September 26, Supraja Montessori Training Centre hosted an online talk that focussed on the importance of 'work'. AMI Primary Trainer Rukmini Ramachandran spoke elaborately about trusting the child's curiosity and abilities, being aware of adult protection of love becoming an obstacle. "I understood that we must give children the freedom to choose, the chance to commit, and create and maintain a suitable environment where their commitment deepens and they enter concentration," Mithraa adds. This way, they discover inner happiness through work and naturally become members who care for and serve others.



"Listening to trainers always opens my eyes and makes me reflect on how I can grow to better cater to the children's needs" - Mithraa Dinesh, Primary Guide

AMI Elementary Orientation

Kavneet Chadha | Bangalore/Online



Six to twelve year children are very different from those under six. As teachers, parents or caregivers, it is sometimes difficult to understand children's changing needs, behaviours and interests and that is exactly what the course offered. "The course was a wonderful overview of key areas and psychical development in this plane. I particularly appreciated that extra time was given for observations, which meant that even as a school head, I could fully participate", shares Mende Lama. Overall, the participants were given a solid foundation that left them feeling confident to apply their learning.

AMI Elementary Trainer Prabha Narayanan gave some insight into the needs and characteristics of elementary children within the context of Montessori's theory of child development and aided the thinking about the role of a responsible adult in the life of a child to support their holistic development

AMI Montessori Core Principles Course

Team, Montessori Core Principles I Hyderabad/Online

"I am a retired Neurosurgeon, and this course has helped me understand the mind of the child, giving me a different perspective on what I can do with my life to create value around me" - Dilnavaz Bhiladvala

The second AMI Montessori Core Principles Course offered in India concluded on October 13 with 102 participants!. The course with 4 weeks of online study concluded with 3 days of immersive exploration onsite. It was an introduction to the philosophical and pedagogical framework of Montessori work from birth to elderhood through readings, observations and hands-on experience. The course was held under the auspices of MTRT, with AMI Trainers Vibhuti Jain (0-3), Helen Mohan Elias and Madhavi Latha Pollipalli (3-6), Prabha Narayanan and Kamini Kapur (6-12), and Lesley Ann Patrick (12-18); all guided by Uma Ramani.



AMI Primary Diploma Course

Kavneet Chadha I Bangalore/Online

This blended satellite course is led by AMI Primary Trainer Tania Stewart under the guidance of the Sir Ratan Tata Institute. Students have joined from Darjeeling, Siliguri, Goa, Mumbai, and Greece, bringing an international spirit to the cohort. The online inauguration welcomed participants with many messages of hope. Surrounded by Himalayan peaks and lush greenery, the program moved onsite in October 2025 and will conclude in June 2026. "Great learning experience so far, amazing guide, enthusiastic peers, evolving into better individuals", shared students.



It was a historic beginning in Darjeeling in September as AMI Primary Teacher Training began at Maitreya Montessori House of Children, marking the first AMI course in north eastern India.

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

SECOND ELEMENTARY DIPLOMA COURSE (6-12 YEARS)
(Blended format)



Conducted by
Alison Awes
AMI 6-12 Trainer

Dates: Feb. 2026 to Dec. 2027

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Demystifying Montessori Materials

'What do toddlers do in school?' is a question that always comes up! Janani Rajyasri, parent and educator, brings to light why some materials are set up and how they are used by the children in a Toddler Montessori community (15 months - 2.5 years).

Using Scissors

Children in the infant community are drawn to complex hand movements that they see adults do, such as cutting using a pair of scissors. Our goal is to present this in a manner that challenges them while also giving them a sense of capability while maintaining safety. Scissors offered in the Montessori environment are real, safe, and sized for the child's hand.

The activity begins simply: we prepare thin and long strips of paper, often in a variety of colors and even patterns which invite the young child to practise cutting. We then sit beside the child, holding the scissors and show how the thumb and fingers fit into the loops. The child watches, tries, and adjusts. We then simply practice the opening and closing movement many, many times. Each time, the child notices how the blades move apart and close to each other. We then place the paper between the blades and then practice cutting. This requires immense practice and perseverance as cutting involves doing two actions at the same time - opening/closing the scissors and moving the paper strip exactly where it needs to be cut.



Photo Courtesy - Navadisha Montessori School

Cutting strengthens hand muscles, refines bilateral coordination, and prepares the hand for writing. More importantly, it gives the child a sense of empowerment - 'I can transform this piece of paper with my own hands.' From this, countless creative and practical activities will grow in the years ahead.

This seemingly simple task offers a wealth of developmental benefits - strengthening concentration, sequencing, balance, and coordination. It also nurtures the child's connection to the environment.

Experiencing Montessori

Kavneet Chadha

This series explores parents' perspectives and the advantages they associate with their child's participation in a Montessori community.



Sudha Rajesh, parent of Athira (now 6 yrs 5 months) shares how her daughter has benefitted in developing the ability to express her thoughts clearly, make independent decisions and improve her language skills from attending a rich and thriving environment. She began in the Montessori school at 2.4 years old, and one of the first things Sudha observed was how quickly Athira adapted and settled in.

Athira initially spoke Tamil, but as she began attending school, Sudha observed that she quickly picked up Kannada, Hindi and English. What stood out was Athira's remarkable ability to switch effortlessly between these languages depending on whom she was speaking to and where she was. She instinctively chose the most fitting language for each context or experience. Her love for music also spanned multiple languages.

One Montessori principle that particularly inspired Sudha was the emphasis on independence at various stages and the concept of self-direction. Her exposure to Montessori education began when she worked as an assistant in an Infant Community, where observing the children's work deeply influenced her. This experience motivated her to pursue training and enroll her child in Montessori.

Songs for the Elementary

Lightly Row

Performed by **Elementary Children of Amey Cosmic Education, Hyderabad**

[Link to the Song - Lightly Row](#)

Lyrics – Lightly Row

Lightly row, lightly row,
O'er the glassy waves we go!
Smoothly glide, smoothly glide,
On the silent tide!

Let the winds and waters be
Mingled with our melody.
Sing and float, sing and float
In our little boat!

Far away, far away,
Echo in the rock at play;
Calleth not, calleth not,
To this lonely spot.

Only with the seabirds' note
Shall our happy music float.
Lightly row, lightly row,
In our little boat!



Stories from Casa

Anju Asokan

Time and again, children bestow us with moments of absolute wonder. This series follows such instances in the Primary (3-6 years) classroom reinforcing faith in the work that we do with children and the collective community.

"The mind of the child takes elements from the environment and incarnates them into his being. This does not happen through heredity, but is the consequence of a creative potential within the child. All children in the world follow this law, in the same way, with the same intensity. The creative potential of the child is not the prerogative of one race or another; it is inherent in the nature of the child." - Maria Montessori, *Citizen of the World*, page 93

A small group of three children initiated a nature walk with an adult. Just outside, the trail of plants adjoining the walls had a variety of five-petaled jungle flame flowers in multiple colours. Among the others, a 6.2 year old quietly joined us on the walk, and paused at every jungle flame shrub for minutes longer than the other two children, who had already moved to discuss the hibiscus or marvel at the newly sprouted green chillies.

When we'd reached the end of that trail, he had a faint, intriguing smile. When the adult asked him what was on his mind, he broke into a silent chuckle of amusement and said *"If we connect the corners of the periwinkle flower, we will see a pentagon"*.



Photo Courtesy: Carnegie Museum of Natural History



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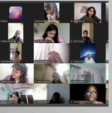
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to 3 - 6
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December 2025

**December 03 - 24
2025**

EVENING

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM (IST)

This course will be online

Please contact us at
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The Montessori Orientation to 3-6 course is an intensive full time programme designed to help interested adults to understand the development of children. It opens the way for adults to assist the child's development both at home and in school. The programme introduces the philosophy underpinning Montessori practice and some basic practical skills useful in interacting with children. The course would also be of interest to teachers working in Montessori schools, to parents and expecting parents, and childcare professionals from other fields. It would also be preparatory work for those considering the AMI 3-6 Diploma Course. The course work will consist of lectures, readings and discussion.

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Co-Trainer

AMI Elementary Diploma Course (6 - 12 year olds)

Trainer

Ms. Prabha Narayanan, Director of Training

Ms. Meenu Sahi, Founder and Executive Director, VHMI

E-mail: vhmi@vivekhighschool.edu.in

What Brought me to Montessori!

Roopa Sundar



After eight years with Primary children, Sudha Rani (extreme right; with her Primary batchmates) is all set to embark on a journey of understanding the second plane child by doing the AMI Elementary Diploma. It was sheer luck that she even found Montessori! After completing her Masters in Computer Applications from NIT, she began working. For someone from a humble family background, a job in a reputed Indian company in Delhi was considered being 'well settled'. Yet, she couldn't ignore a growing sense of dissatisfaction as though something purposeful was missing. *"One of my favourite hobbies then was reading on Quora, where I came across a discussion on Montessori education. It struck a chord and a brief interaction with an AMI Trainer affirmed everything I had been searching for. There was no turning back."*

Sudha found the nine months of the training to be truly transformative. She didn't just learn about children, but discovered a lot about herself. *"The capabilities of children and the profound importance of the first six years of life were revelations for me."* Having learnt so much, applying the theory into practice in a classroom was a whole different ballgame. *"It took me nearly a year to truly grasp that observation is the heart of our work."*

Every instance of deep concentration is a joy to witness in a Montessori environment. However, the firsts are very special. A child had been offered the presentation on the Trinomial Cube and she was trying hard for a couple of days. Each time she placed a prism differently, Sudha had to consciously hold herself back from stepping in. On the third day, she witnessed something truly beautiful; she figured it out on her own and the joy on her face was unforgettable. She went on to build it more than ten times in a row and continued returning to the material throughout the week. That experience taught her something profound: *"When you stop interrupting and simply observe, you begin to see the immense potential of the child."*

Every child is unique, and no two days in a Montessori environment are ever the same. Some days are deeply satisfying, while some may bring moments of self-doubt. But each day is a fresh start, and the energy the children bring into the environment makes you want to do it all over again!

Nature Snap

Nature in all its vastness and minuteness, seen through the eyes of children!

"The sun, coming out of the dark clouds, just like us coming out of our fears everyday"
shot by Harshveer Bharadwaj, 7 Years, Hyderabad





EVENTS 2025-'26

Sat / 19th July 2025	Talk	Montessori Education. An Aid to life	Online
Sat / 23 August 2025	Volunteering for IMF	Working together for a thriving community	Online
Sat / 30 August 2025	Exclusive Talk for Flagship Schools	Fostering a collaborative Montessori Community	Online
Sat / 20 September 2025	Talk	Nourishing Body and Spirit. The Child's Journey with Food	Online
Sat / 19 October 2025	Talk	Navigating the Adolescent years	Online
Sat / 15 November 2025	Talk	Helping Children Grow in Harmony	Online
Sat / 6 December 2025	Orientation	Work of the Indian Montessori Foundation	Online
Fri / 23 January 2026 Sat / 24 January 2026	CONFERENCE	<u>Seventh National Montessori Conference: SAPARYA</u>	Onsite - Mumbai
Sat / 21 February 2026	Exclusive Talk for Flagship Schools	Designing a Prepared Outdoor Environment	Online

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