

The Touch Board

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FEBRUARY 2020

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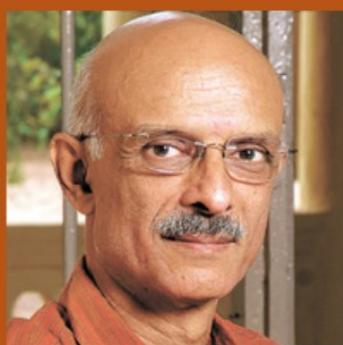
2019-20 ISSUES PLANNED

July
August
September
October
November
January
February
March

Fifth National Montessori Conference

We are delighted to inform you that the Indian Montessori Foundation will be hosting its **Fifth National Montessori Conference on 14th and 15th February, 2020** at the **Marriott Hyderabad Convention Centre, Hyderabad**. The theme of the conference is **Kriya - Purposeful Work, for Self and Society**. Eminent National and International speakers will come together to explore the importance of purposeful work in education. The idea of work which brings together a harmonious integration of the mind, body and spirit will be discussed from different perspectives, specially the role it plays in the lives of children.

Some of the speakers at the conference include:



G. Gautama – Secretary of the Chennai Education Center, KFI.



Dr. Akhila Ramanarayan – Divisional Chair, Literature and the Arts, KREA University.



Cheryl Ferreira - AMI Montessori Trainer (3-6 age level), United Kingdom.



Jenny Hoglund - AMI Montessori Trainer (6-12 age level), Sweden.



Anahita Gandhi – AMI Montessori Trainer (3-6 age level), India

Register online at: <https://forms.gle/mJEzRhPmfizuUjuu5> To learn more about the conference please visit www.montessori-india.org or write to imf.hyderabad@gmail.com

IMF Infant Furniture

In a world designed primarily for the functioning of adults, it may be challenging to find furniture appropriate for the very young. The Indian Montessori Foundation (IMF) now manufactures small sized furniture suitable for children between birth and six, considering access by children and fostering their independence. This becomes even significant at this point with the beginning of the first Assistants to Infancy course in India, aiming to understand and create environments answering the needs of young children. The furniture is made of durable wood and every item is an invaluable addition to homes and schools.

Bench

Dimension : Total height 16" Seat height 7.4" Seat depth 9" Length 42.4"

Price : Rs. 6900

This bench is for the child to sit comfortably while dressing. It that can be placed near the restroom so that the child can sit and dress or undress. Or it can be near the entrance where the children can use it taking off or putting on shoes.

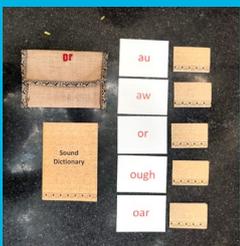


If you are interested in buying the infant furniture or other Montessori Materials, please contact Coral Groups (**Email Id** : coralgroups@outlook.com; **Phone Number**: 9092910007) or check out the IMF Website !

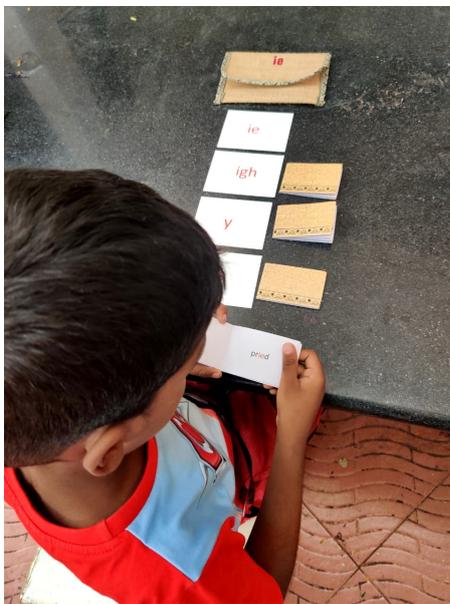
Reading Folders



Jute bag with the 14 Reading Folders



Reading Folder 'or' with respective booklets and Sound Dictionary



A child working with the Reading Folders

Developed by Muriel Dwyer, the Reading Folders offer young children who are starting to read the important idea that in English a sound may be represented with many letter combinations.

The material consists of a series of 14 folders, each one representing a key sound -- ai, ee, ie, oa, oo, oi, ow, er, or, s, f, e, j. In each folder there are cards representing the various ways in which the key sound can be written. Accompanied by little booklets with words containing the combinations and a sound dictionary to look up the combinations the materials help the young reader gain experience with the complexities of spelling and meaning in English.

The Reading Folders Set sold by the IMF is made out of durable quality jute. It comes in a bag that includes 14 folders with each key sound (ai, ee, ie, oa, oo, oi, ow, er, or, s, f, e, j) printed on top and respective booklets in each of the folders to represent the key sound. Also included in the set is a Sound Dictionary.

The Reading Folders are now available for sale and can be ordered at Coral Groups :

Email Id : coralgroups@outlook.com

Phone Number: 9092910007



CORAL GROUPS
(All India distributors of IMF)

coralgroups@outlook.com

9092910007

Special Education

With a rise in parents and teachers looking out for professional help with regards to children with special needs, we bring out contact information of some organizations specializing in this field.

BLOOMS BEYOND- Institute of Early Intervention and Developmental Skills

- Vidhya Ramalingam

Blooms Beyond Institute of Early Intervention and Developmental Skills is a special education centre for children in Hyderabad. The institute is headed by Smitha Kandula, who has immense experience in the field of special education and therapy for children with learning difficulties and behavioural problems. She has helped children from different parts of India successfully overcome their learning difficulties with her technical expertise, dedication and child friendly nature.

Blooms Beyond Institute of Early Intervention and Developmental Skills can be reached at:



+91 98664 77474



bloomsbeyond9@gmail.com



bloomsbeyond.in



BloomsBeyond Institute of Early Intervention and
Developmental Skills, Pillar #71, PVNR Expressway,
Balajinagar, Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad

* The Indian Montessori Foundation does not endorse any organizations or individuals listed in the series. They are only to serve as reference.



About the Author:

Janani currently lives in California and is trained in both the 0-3 and 3-6 age levels. She has also worked with children at both age levels. She is currently in the process of finishing her Masters in Montessori Education at the Early Childhood Level. Janani has also recently started a small blog called SrishtiEd

(www.srishtied.com) in hopes of connecting with more families of young children. She loves working with the youngest children and their families and feels that the importance of the first three years needs to be taken to the wider society. In her spare time, she loves cooking for her family and friends ; creating new recipes for young children to become independent in the kitchen!

Through a Toddler's Eyes

In this column, we bring to you Janani's reflections and practical ideas focusing on the child between the ages of birth and three years.

- Janani Rajyasri Bhuvaneshwaran

CREATING SUSTAINABLE SLEEP-ONSET ASSOCIATIONS

When children associate certain occurrences as cues to fall asleep, it is called sleep onset association. Sleep associations are created by way of habit. Observing a child's sleep signs can help us initiate the routine at the right moment. When a child's day is filled with optimum stimulation & opportunities to move, they welcome this period of rest.

- **Baths** are ideal to initiate a sleep routine. While this works for most children, we must remember that these must be *calming*. If we over-stimulate by adding cups, ducks, boats and balls, it becomes *water play* that does not make for smooth transitions.
- **Night time clothing** can be pyjamas or sleep sacks, with a thin blanket and a soft toy. Once they change into these, they will recognise that it is time to rest. As children get older, the same can be used as a reminder: "You are wearing your night clothes, it is time to rest.". Some parents prefer to either sing/play a **song or read a book** before sleep. A short story/song that the child is already familiar with works best for night time instead of loud, jarring ones.

Every sleep association is created purely by routine but a sustainable one is always *prior* to sleep and not well into sleep time.

How do we unknowingly create Sleep Association Disorders?

When we create associations that involve putting a child to sleep using certain techniques, then, upon waking, they expect the same techniques to fall asleep.

- **Rocking & cuddling** are wonderful ways to bond with children, but not to be thought of as sleep associations. When a baby is really small, it might be easy to rock them to sleep, but creates an unsustainable habit that is hard to break.
- The problem with **breastfeeding** to sleep is we are associating food with sleep. When we extend the association to help babies sleep, it creates an unsustainable association. However, feeding a child *before* sleep has proven to be helpful for many parents. The repetitive motion of suckling calms babies and while they are drowsy, it is best to set them down.
- Many tired parents have driven their howling babies in a **car** hoping that the motion will soothe them to sleep. But, driving around the town creates a problematic sleep association.

Sleeping **on a parent's chest or in their arms** creates sore arms and tired parents who do not have the patience or energy following the nap. Alternatively, you can provide a t-shirt or blanket that smells like you to soothe them.

Instead of complicating rest by having power struggles, creating a simple series of activities which can be fulfilled not only helps children establish healthy associations around sleep but also sleep independence from early on.



Tree Stories

- Bhanupriya Mohan

Nature Lover, Home Maker, Freelance Writer



"I lived on a campus in Agra where there was an abundance of nature. It was a delight to observe the children enjoying nature's bounty. It created a lasting impression on my mind and heart. I share my love for trees, children, people and memories that are a part of me through these experiences."

The Silk Cotton



The Silk Cotton Tree belonged to the neighbor but half the branches bridged over to my aunt's terrace resting itself sprawling over the terrace.

For a single tree its yield was copious so the generous neighbor told my aunt to keep all the cotton that was on her terrace. The landing to the terrace had sacks full of creamy white silk cotton. Any number of free hands were welcome, no one could sit idle when there was so much cotton to remove from the pods. The seeds needed to be removed too. We as kids didn't complain as it was far too much fun to remove the cotton from its brown golden pods. Soon everybody in the family from young to the old, received a silk cotton pillow. Grandpa got an entire bed on his 75th Birthday!!!

This was decades ago. I don't see too many silk cotton trees around Chennai anymore. However, even today, the memory of the dinner we as kids enjoyed squatting in a semi circle on the terrace floor on a moonlit night, against a backdrop of the tree remains fresh. The picture of the silk cotton pods, split open, the cotton inside looking like half moons, hanging low from their branches, while my aunt served hot chinna vengayam (small onion) sambar_rice with the rich aroma of ghee...nourishes me instantly. We were three generations all soaking in the moonlight and collective joy of shared meals and yes, we all had our own pillows from the tree.



Montessori in Vulnerable Communities

In this series, we bring out the work of organisations and individuals who have taken Montessori education to disadvantaged communities and closely work in supporting them.

- Vidhya Ramalingam

Vivekananda Convent High School (VCHS) was established at Bharath Nagar Colony, Moosapet, Hyderabad in 1984 with an objective to facilitate quality education to poor families. The preschool started implementing Maria Montessori's principles and practices under the guidance of John Hemanth Kumar Gadam, an AMI Primary Montessori Director, since 2004. Over the years, the school has grown up to high school, with necessary affiliation with the state board education department. More than 500 children have been served in the last 15 years who either belong to families below the poverty line or are from labour class families with low annual income.



The day at VCHS begins with receiving children at around 8.30 AM followed by the general assembly for the entire school. Thereafter, toddlers and young children between 2.6 and 5 years go to their Montessori environment where they work using handmade low-cost Montessori materials. The school has a beautiful garden and the children are provided opportunities to do gardening and bird watching, as well as feeding pigeons which fly in large numbers into the school campus.

"It was challenging in the initial years to build up trust in parents, but now, the parent community around the school have seen the kind of development the children have gone through. We have happy parents who tell us various instances where children are independently working at home with involvement. As a means to sensitise parents regarding Montessori education and child development we hold orientation sessions for the parents from time to time. These sessions mainly focus on child psychology, Montessori philosophy, and value based topics like morality, importance of grace and courtesy and other interpersonal skills which will help parents understand the kind of transformation it would bring in their children." - John Hemanth

John Hemanth further adds that it would be of great help to the school and the children if interested people can provide them with financial support and standard Montessori materials. Those interested in supporting VCHS can get in touch through the following ways:



Mobile No: +91 9848431438

Email ID: johnhemanthkumar@gmail.com



Bookmark4U

we enable quick access

Bookmark4U is the representative of the Coral Groups. We sell IMF books, furniture, and didactic materials in two Telugu States – Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It has been established in the year 2019 and is handled by young entrepreneurs A. Indhu Ravindra and Kanishk Mullapudi along with support of Little Scholars Montessori House of Children.

Mobile: +91 9121327373

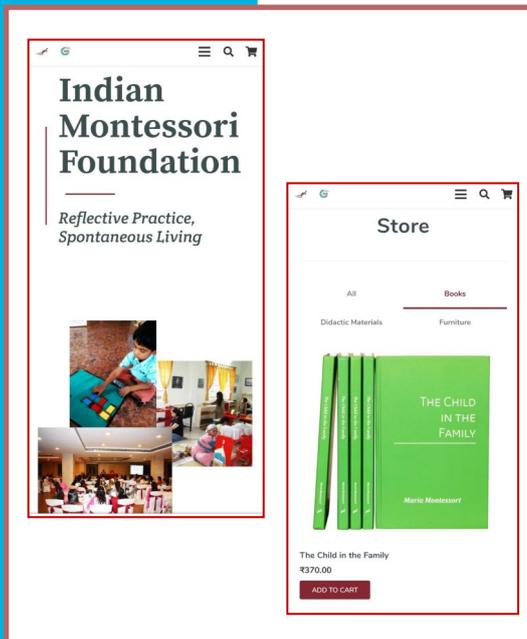
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“The child comes to respect the work of others, not because someone has said he must, but because this is a reality that he meets in his daily experience. There is only one between many children, so there is nothing for it but to wait. And since this happens every hour of the day for years, the idea of respecting others and of waiting one’s turn, becomes habitual part of life which always grows more mature.”

(Montessori, Maria *The Absorbent Mind* Kalakshetra Publications, India 2003 Ch 22, P 232)

The new and revamped IMF Website !



The latest version of the Indian Montessori Foundation website has essential areas to explore such as job openings, upcoming courses and Montessori schools across various cities and also provides access to some useful resources through articles, books, videos, materials and relevant websites.

One can also purchase appropriate furniture and Montessori materials through this website. Do not miss out on the exciting talks and workshops held on a regular basis, which is also updated on this site.

The upcoming event will definitely not miss your eyes on the main page of the website: 'Kriya - 5th National Montessori Conference', offering details regarding the event and the means for registration.

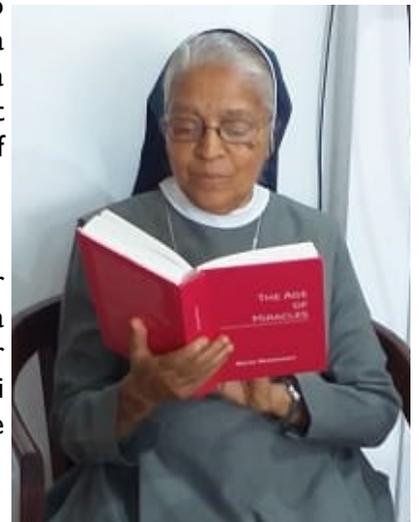
Do check it out!

The Age of Miracles

The book 'The Age of Miracles' is now available for sale on the IMF website and at IMF events. Grab your copy now only at the price of 790/- !

Indian Montessori Foundation (IMF) is very proud to bring out the book 'The Age of Miracles' which is a compilation of unpublished lectures given by Maria Montessori in 1944 at Sri Lanka (Ceylon). A brilliant timing of the book as Sri Lanka celebrated 75 years of Montessori work recently!

The story of how the missing lectures came together and was finally brought to light after so many years is a fascinating read. A heartfelt gratitude to Sister Stanislaus and the Good Shepard Maria Montessori Training Centre for sharing this invaluable gift with the Montessori community.



Sister Stanislaus mentions in the book, "Maria Montessori assumed the role of the 'Knight of the Child' to keep the light shining in a dark and confused age, when the child was often considered the 'Forgotten Citizen' – the unknown child, when the true child was not yet revealed."

Adolescent Programmes in India

-Vidhya Ramalingam



Pragnya Montessori - This is the first produce of mushrooms of the program. After two failed attempts, the adults and adolescents researched and persisted, which paid off. They controlled the environment and made it conducive for the growth of mushrooms.

It is encouraging news for all of us that the Montessori ErdKinder programme is finding its way in the country. With the main focus of providing a conducive environment for adolescents to meet their developmental needs, two schools in Hyderabad namely Pragnya Montessori School and Medha Montessori High School have started the Montessori Adolescent Programme in 2017 and 2018 respectively. The Touch Board is glad to present an overview of the work of the adolescents and what the community of parents, teachers and children have to say about the programme which is the first of its kind in India.

The Erd Kinder programme is a setting that gives the adolescents opportunities to take up real life responsibilities and execute them, giving different experiences and exposure through micro economy projects which help them in making their decisions and learning from them. They learn to practice acceptance, equity, sharing responsibility and accountability through their collaborative work. The adults take up varied roles in the community and work alongside the adolescents, guiding them when required.

Teachers feel that they need to become more creative to give the children more choice of projects and engage them in more collaborative work to help them develop more skills and patience in dealing with the outside society. Parents are pleased that their children have become independent learners and are responsible for their work. They are also appreciative of the fact that these adolescents are able to balance their academic work and their extra-curricular goals. Parents believe that the skills and experiences that the children gain in this programme are crucial to prepare them to take up any work they plan to choose as a career as it builds in them the temperament to adapt to new and difficult situations.

“The main focus of the programme is to develop the skills required for self-reliance and financial independence. The program prepares the children to enter their higher education armed with creative problem-solving skills, the capability to collaborate within a team, ability to organize and manage”
- M. V. Kishore, Guide, Medha Montessori School

“The program empowers the adolescents to take up roles and responsibilities to work for the benefit of the community, keeping them grounded to the realities of social life. The program is very flexible and takes shape based on the needs of the community. It truly valorizes the adolescent and prepares him/her for real adult life.” - Chaithanya Yalamanchili, Guide, Pragnya Montessori School



Children at Medha Montessori harvesting vegetables from the farm. They sell their produce to parents and maintain the accounts.

“As we learn everything practically, we pursue academic work with interest, and it is related to the work that we do. Any particular subject is not restricted to four walls and we have applications of each subject in many areas, like we used physics, mathematics and geometry to build our boat in carpentry. It is an interesting experience for us.” - Adolescents, Pragnya Montessori School

IMF Events 2019

Date	City	Event	Topic	Speaker	Venue
14,15- Feb 20	Hyderabad	Conference	Kriya -Fifth National Montessori Conference	-	Marriott Hyderabad Convention Centre
20-Feb-20	Bangalore	Thursday Talk	Alternatives to Screen Time	Anahita Gandhi	KRSTA
20-Feb-20	Mumbai	Thursday Talk	Building a Home Library	Zarin/Neelima/Suneeta/ Anahita/Pavitra/Geeta	Montessori International

Orange Tree
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AMI
ASSOCIATION OF MONTESSORI EDUCATORS INTERNATIONAL

Abacus Montessori School is looking for trained teachers in Primary (3 to 6 years) and Elementary (6 to 12 Years). If you understand children, have excellent communication skills in English, and a Bachelor's or Master's degree and are open, responsible and reflective, please

apply to

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Butterfly Series

We bring to you a butterfly series in the format of 'Who am I?' - A great way to introduce common butterflies that children see often in their natural environment.

- Tarunya Gouthaman

Who am I?



My scientific name is **Acraea Viola**. I belong to the tribe Acraeini, and family of Nymphalidae. We have elongated forewings and rounded hindwings. The male is deep orange while the female is pale tawny yellow. The forewing and hindwing have a pattern of black spots, the termen is edged with a black marginal band which has a series of small white spots. I am found in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Burma and Thailand. We love the monsoon season and you can see many of us hovering around in grasslands, open woodlands, beaches and flowery garden. The eggs are yellowish, and laid carefully spaced, in neat batches on the underside of leaves. Guess my name?

AMI Membership

Membership to Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) is open to everyone! Become a part of a worldwide community dedicated to the recognition of the unique nature of childhood, natural human development and the rights of the child. Discounted rates to events, AMI eBulletins and Journals are some of the benefits a member receives. AMI membership is an individual membership and is not available to schools, universities, and other educational organisations.

Membership fees begin at 40 euros.

To join, please visit www.montessori-ami.org



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www.themontessorischool.org.in

Donate generously to IMF!

Your donation will help us keep our work of reaching Montessori ideas to children and families alive!

For more information, contact : 8248010258 or email us at info@montessori-india.org

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New opportunity to reach the Montessori community!

The Montessori community is growing! Parents are more aware of Montessori education than ever before. The Indian Montessori Foundation (IMF) publishes **The Touch Board** (newsletter, 8 issues: July, August, September, October, November, January, February, March) and **Montessori Matters** (Annual Journal). Communication to target the Montessori community can be published as per the following new tariff.

The Touch Board (colour; 6 x 8 cms)

1 issue	₹ 500
4 issues	₹1500
8 issues	₹2800

Montessori Matters (black and white; [full page] 20 x 12cms)

1 issue	₹1000
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