

# THE TOUCH BOARD



## IMF Events

- Kavneet Chadha

### Talk - 'Real Life: Getting beyond the Screen'

On September 25, 2021, AMI Primary Trainer, Suneeta Madnani shared some Montessori principles that can help to take individuals beyond the screen. She started with the idea that even though screens have become an integral part of the household, more so during the pandemic, we have to find ways to offer children the great benefit of participating in the richness of life around them.

With 120 participants, the evening garnered much food for thought. Anita Unnikrishnan, who works with toddlers in Chennai shares how it all begins with awareness of the caregivers. *“The point that we cannot do away with screen time from a child when it is available 24/7 at home caught my eyes. So, it is the adult who has to make the change or control their need to watch television. And our love for the child will help us make this change.”*



*“Montessori’s most strident plea was to reduce the gap between the life of the child and that of the adult. We only need to let the children into our lives. When we lay the table for a meal, when we sort grocery, when we fold clothes, when we wash our car or clean our drawer; in our everyday mundane lives is hidden the opportunity for initiative, reasoning, correction, focus, the power to finish a given task.” - Suneeta Madnani*

**Continued...**

For Sneha Thakkar, a student in the middle of an AMI course in Mumbai, the examples and personal experiences shared by Sunneta helped drive home the importance of children being part of life and its relationships. *“We don’t have to stage experiences by giving children special activities, we just have to allow children to participate in our everyday life.”*

**Workshop - ‘Joy of Mathematics’**

The three hour workshop on October 23, 2021 led by Ruby Lau (AMI 3-6 Trainer) in collaboration with Madhavi Gaddam (AMI 6-12 Trainer) and Vibhuti Jain (AMI 0-3 Auxiliary Trainer) presented ideas for joyfully preparing and introducing mathematical concepts to children between 0 and 12 years. The sensorial preparation of the child at first is essential to then slowly build on their knowledge and explore mathematics at higher levels.

Archana PV, a Primary Guide from Chennai was inspired by how presenting mathematics need not only be based on materials, but involving the child in the numerous calculations of everyday life. To Carolyn Tan, who heads a school in Singapore, the idea of the mathematical mind being active right from birth was the biggest take away. *“Mathematics is not a subject but a universal language to describe experiences, share information, understand relationships, make discoveries and invent ideas. We use it in our lives all the time everyday from birth.”*



*More than 100 participants came together to understand and reflect on their own journey with numbers and to better offer them to children.*

**AMI Elementary Orientation Course**

- Kavneet Chadha



Montessori Institute of Bangalore (MIB) conducted a Elementary (6-12 years) Orientation Course to help understand the Elementary child and aid interested adults become informed, capable, and supportive assistants to a trained Montessori Guide.

Renu Puri along with many other participants of Vivek High School from Chandigarh felt that it was an enriching experience which encouraged them to unlearn and relearn many aspects of children at the elementary level. *“The course gave an overview of the prepared environment, pertaining characteristics and most importantly the role of the adult in guiding the future towards their driven path”*, adds Khushi Talreja from Bangalore.

*The three week online course between September 20 - October 7, 2021, was headed by Trainer Alison Awes, Director of Elementary Training in the Montessori Institute of Minnesota. The course was attended by over 60 participants from different parts of India.*

## Notes & Notations



We bring to you songs for young children with their tunes.  
Take out an instrument and play along!

## Off We Go to Market

$\text{♩} = 80$

We pick the cherries ripe and red...  
We lay them in a basket bed...

We plant the turnips in the ground...  
We pull them when they're big and round...

”

*“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 a habitual part of life which always grows more mature.”*

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

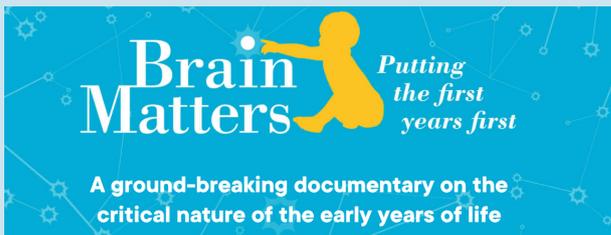
## Good Reels

- Jezreena Jezer

One of the complications of the current age is abundancy in choice, which makes children and even us as adults overwhelmed. In this series, we narrow down and bring to you reviews of a handful of documentaries that are suitable for children/parents.



## . EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT .



Children are born ready to learn and in fact start this process even before they are born. The early experiences they have are crucial for their development and future potential.

### Early Childhood Development | 5 THINGS PARENTS SHOULD DO EVERYDAY |

Brain Matters Documentary is a quick guide for parents, highlighting the very engagement that matters the most. This is a five-minute excerpt on YouTube from the hour long documentary by Carlota Nelson called Brain Matters. The original film follows the journeys of families across the world and strives to understand what makes an individual thrive in life - genetics, IQ, socioeconomic background or education.

This clip extracts five essential practices that parents can follow to enrich the experiences that children receive in their childhood. Vocabulary, mathematics and emotions are among the various aspects that are discussed. These experiences have an impact on children which they carry with them throughout their lives.

Watch Brain Matters on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1hNZhH9bRg&ab\\_channel=BrainMatters](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1hNZhH9bRg&ab_channel=BrainMatters)

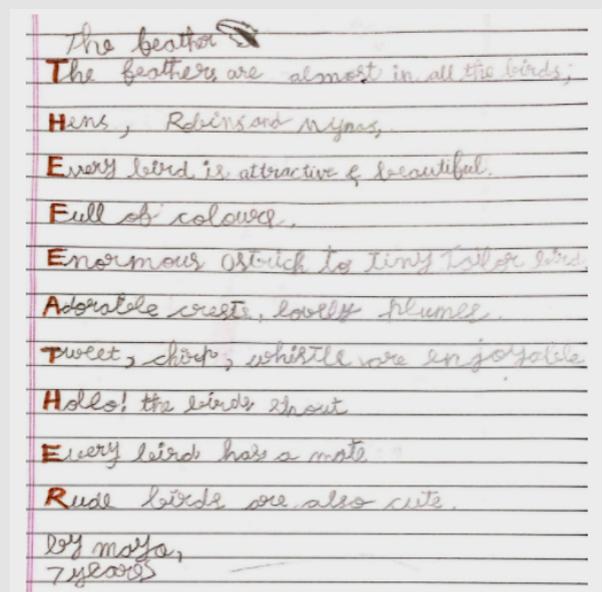
## Letters to the Editor



"My daughter and I enjoy reading the song and poetry corner in the recent editions of the Touch Board. This time my daughter came up with a poem inspired by the Six Little Ducks!!

Happy to be sharing this with the TouchBoard Team."

Sumana B



## What's in the IMF Store ?

*In the quest to bring Montessori philosophy and principles to families and communities and supporting schools and training centres in their work, the Indian Montessori Foundation (IMF) has on sale Montessori books, didactic language material and furniture that aids independence in young children.*

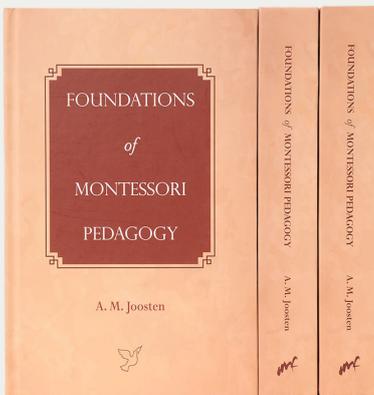
Montessori books are an invaluable resource for students of Montessori practice and parents who wish to understand the developmental needs of the child to better support them. All the books are easy on the eyes with their large font and carry extensive and useful footnotes for the readers. The publications under the IMF banner are listed below :

### **Foundations of Montessori Pedagogy**

Published : January 2018

ISBN : 978-81-929891-9-8

Price : Rs.750



Albert Max Joosten (1914-1980) was a Montessori trainer and practitioner whose life and work has had far reaching impact on the Indian subcontinent. His legacy of training was rigorous and meaningful. He brought the Montessori message of education for peace and social harmony to Montessori teachers across generations. He was known and admired for his lively personality and powerful lecturing style.

This book is an eclectic collection of essays that were written by Joosten over forty years. Some of them focus on Montessori materials and techniques and some on the practices in the Montessori environment. However all of them call us to return to the foundations of Montessori pedagogy, the importance of creating conditions in which children can develop to their fullest potential and thus bring about in turn the spiritual uplift of humankind.

**All our books can be purchased at events organised by the IMF in your city or at <https://montessori-india.org/store/>**

### POETRY CORNER



### **What is Pink ?**

**By Christina Rossetti**

What is pink? A rose is pink  
By the fountain's brink.

What is red? A poppy's red  
In its barley bed.

What is blue? The sky is blue  
Where the clouds float through.

What is white? A swan is white  
Sailing in the light.

What is yellow? Pears are yellow,  
Rich and ripe and mellow.

What is green? The grass is green,  
With small flowers between.

What is violet? Clouds are violet  
In the summer twilight.

What is orange? Why, an orange,  
Just an orange!

# Demystifying Montessori Materials

- Archana Narayanan & Khyati Shah

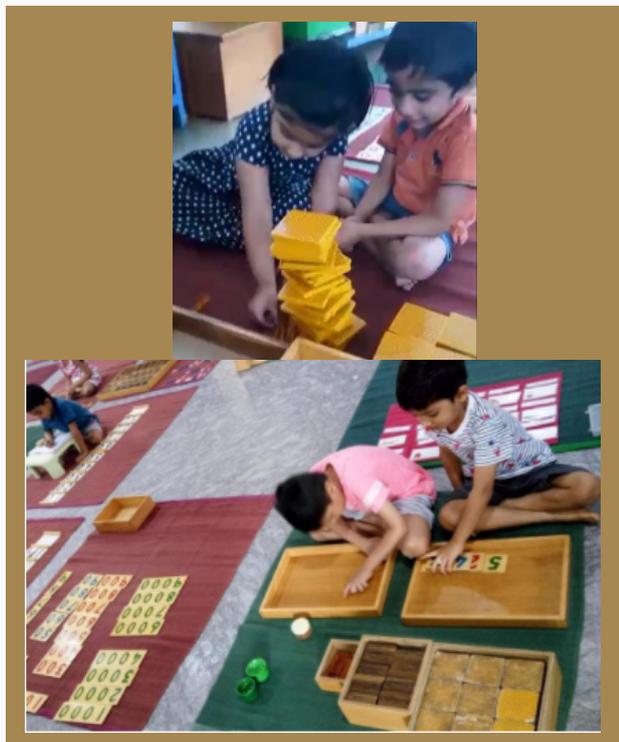
Many times, the child's reply to 'What did you do in class today?' mystifies the adult even more. Either incomprehensible names or mundane activities are encountered. This series brings to light how and why some materials are set up and how they are used by the children in a Primary Montessori community (3-6 years).

## DECIMAL OPERATIONS

If your child is around 4 years old in a Montessori environment, you would have heard a mention of the Decimal Operations. When a group begins this activity, the whole class knows! The children go about, busily, arranging all the materials for the activity. The materials include beads and cards representing different quantities like units, tens, hundreds and thousands. These help the children to conceive numbers and their quantities in a concrete manner. The quantity of the beads increase and decrease based on whether they are adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing them. Children assign roles to one another and to perform these. The focus is on the process rather than the answers.

Apart from these mathematical operations, the activity also aims to satisfy the children's growing need to socialise with their peers. This activity calls for a lot of movement, which otherwise, is not something that we expect, while doing math.

If one were to enter the class while a group was working with the decimal operations, it may seem as if they've entered a fascinating show!



## IMF EVENTS

2021-22



Register now  
on  
[montessori-india.org](http://montessori-india.org)

Day	Month	Time	Online Event	Topic	Speaker
Saturday	24 Jul-21	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk	Supporting Children through the Pandemic	Rukmini Ramachandran
Saturday	28 Aug-21	4 PM - 5 PM	Workshop	Helping Children deal with Disappointment	Hemalatha Rangarajan
Thursday	16 Sep-21	9 AM - 12 PM	AMI Students	Orientation to IMF	IMF Events Team
Saturday	25-Sep-21	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk	Real Life: Getting Beyond the Screen	Suneeta Madhani
Saturday	23-Oct-21	9 AM - 12 PM	Workshop	Joy of Mathematics	Vibhuti Jain, Ruby Lau, Madhavi Gaddam
Thursday	18-Nov-21	9 AM - 12 PM	AMI Students	Art Appreciation	Gowri Ramnarayan
Saturday	27-Nov-21	5:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Workshop	Introduction to Montessori Elementary	Alison Awes
Saturday	18-Dec-21	4 PM - 5 PM	School Heads	TBD	-
Saturday	22-Jan-22	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk	Consistency - the Key to Parenting	Amy Kirkham
Saturday	26-Feb-22	3 PM - 6 PM	Conference	TBD	TBD
Saturday	26-Mar-22	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk	Education beyond Worksheets	Teenaz Reporter

# A Play with Numbers

- Kavneet Chadha & Jezreena Jezer

In this era of technology where online games have become the 'go to' option this series aims to bring back the charm of playing traditional games that build memories, allow for families to bond as well as build cognitive skills, laying a foundation for mathematics for children under 6.



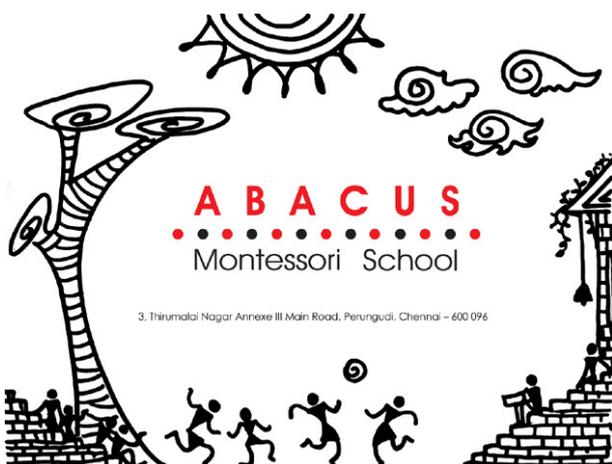
## Hand Cricket

India was introduced to cricket by the British sailors. It is a famous outdoor game that requires a bat and a ball to play. Hand cricket follows the same concepts of batting and bowling, but it just requires two players and is played using the five fingers of one hand. This is a popular game among children. The game involves a lot of coordination, awareness of odd and even numbers for toss and quick mental math to keep track of runs and wickets.

## How to Play



- The game starts with a toss. Player 1 asks 'odd or even?' and Player 2 chooses either one. If Player 2 chooses even, Player 1 is assigned odd by default. For toss, both the players show their fingers representing a number between 1 to 6.
- The hand movement is like playing rock, paper, scissors; both the players show their number at the same time. The number shown by both the players is added. If the sum is odd, the player who chose odd wins the toss and can decide to bat or bowl.
- The players decide on the number of overs and the number of wickets before starting the game.
- The runs are calculated by the numbers played only by the batsman. Each ball played can give one to six runs or it can be a dot ball (zero runs).
- When both the players play the same number, the batsman is declared out.
- When all the wickets are taken, the next player gets to bat with the target of the runs scored by the first player plus one run to win.
- Once the game is over, the next game can start again with a toss.



 THE MONTESSORI HOUSE

**ADMISSION  
OPENS 2021**



### PROGRAMS OFFERED

- \* TODDLER ENVIRONMENT  
1.5 YRS TO 2.5 YRS
- \* PRIMARY ENVIRONMENT  
2.5 YRS TO 6 YRS

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

CHESS | YOGA | DANCE  
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ART & CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Timings : School - 8.30 am to 6.00 pm | After School Club - 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm  
Day Care Facility Available : 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm

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🌐 themontessorihouse.in

📞 98410 58282  
98402 42151

# FROM GLOWING LIGHTHOUSES TO HUNGRY DRAGONS !

## *Tales from Elementary Children*

*This series brings to you stories conceived, written, edited and illustrated by elementary children!*

### The Great Sea Voyage

Written + Illustrated by Harish Rsum, 9 years



#### The Journey Begins

It was a sunny day, and a stiff breeze was blowing along the Fulcrum's main sails. Jim Brayan the cabin boy was in his cabin thinking whether the sea was the grand adventure he had hoped for because all he had encountered since boarding was being ordered around. What he really wanted to do was to hoist the sails and go up the crow's nest. Just then the captain walked in, *"Get yourself in gear Jim. We are going to have some rough sailing ahead of us"*.

That night, it was a lot worse than what the captain had predicted. A ferocious gale swept the Fulcrum's bowsprit out and into the sea, and there was water all over the deck. Jim grabbed a bucket, and bailed furiously. But by the time he threw six buckets of water overboard he had collapsed with exhaustion. The last thing he heard was the clamouring of the sailor's voices which finally died out and everything went dark.

#### Shipwrecked

As soon as Jim woke he spotted the ship washed up a few miles away. He immediately fashioned a raft out of the logs and the jungle twines from and recovered all that he could from the ship. Just as he brought the last of it on shore the ship collapsed.

Jim set out on building a boat. It was NOT an easy job for he had only parts of the fore mast which would suffice as tiny masts for his boat. Tree trunks were the only option for the hull. As for the sails he had managed to salvage a part of the ship's sails. It took him three days to hollow the wood (with an axe he had made) but it was finally done.

#### Back to the Sea

On the first day he attempted to learn steering. By dusk he was able to stay the boat on a steady course. But he had to figure out where he was going to go. A salvaged compass was all the guide he had. He had guessed the direction in which the Fulcrum had been going and followed it. Then Jim tied the rudder tight to the mast with the jungle twine and slept.

He was woken by the churning of the sea. His boat was full of water and about to capsize. He bailed with his arms but that only amounted to a few buckets of water overboard. Just then the sea calmed and dawn broke. And he saw smoke at a distance. He knew he was saved. He swore that he would never come to the sea again. The big adventure he had in mind was finally over!

# Experiences & Explorations

In this segment, Christina Dias shares her thoughts and experiences with young children and how adults can support their love for work and exploration of their environment.

*Christina Dias Remedios is currently a Montessori Elementary directress at the Chiang Mai Montessori International School, Thailand. Her 16-year journey includes working in Primary (3-6 years) and Elementary (6-12 years) classrooms in Vietnam, Belgium, Thailand and across India. Her passion lies in being an advocate for Montessori principles and holistic education that are child and community centric.*



## Practical Autonomy



A chance watching of a video on YouTube introduced me to the fascinating world of 2.3-year-old Rose (*FlavCity* with Bobby Parrish). Can't say what was more astonishing, just watching Rose make her potato salad with determination, her willingness to eat those vegetables or remembering to follow every step meticulously. This ignited the thought of how our little children's need for independence and social adaptation can be provided for at home.

How can we as adults help and prepare the environment especially for the tiny hands yet evolving mind. Rose's mum prepared a small food corner station; where the sink, the tap, the worktop was all at Rose's height. An adjoining table, with kitchen tools, dinnerware and cutlery were all child-sized, ready for use. Rose cleaned, washed, cut the vegetables and even made a salad dressing all on her own. Food preparation with children ages 2 and above has great scope. Opportunities can include cleaning, peeling, cutting, decorating their daily snack using fresh vegetables and fruits and of course also tidying up.

Many Montessori classrooms encourage children to complete table décor where they can choose a beautiful tablecloth, cut flowers, leaves from class plants to decorate floral arrangements and also learn how to set up placemats with their dinnerware and cutlery not only for themselves but also for classmates.

Every space that a child uses comes alive when a child is made to feel part of its growth and upkeep. We must think of activities that have a **definite purpose**, in which the child will be ever willing to **participate** in and be happy to **contribute** to the lives of people who partake in it.

Every young child possesses an innate capacity to absorb everything, if only we adults choose to slow our world down for them. Tasks we often do mechanically, have to be broken down so the child can focus on each part and arrive at his own rhythm and pace of movements and steps. Everything needed to complete this activity; the objects, the setting, the procedure must be thought of carefully.

Most of us have memories of our make-believe tea parties. How about a real activity where the cultural tradition of greeting and offering can come alive! We can show our children how to prepare tea, coffee, fruit juices, and healthy smoothies. It can be transformed into a beautiful **ritual of offering** to loved ones and our guests. What will the children need, to turn this into a memorable experience? They could have a choice of aesthetic and ethnic Indian trays, cups, jars, coasters, made of unique materials like terracotta, bamboo, porcelain, carved metal. We can gleefully demonstrate e.g., how to greet, how to prepare the objects that will be offered, how to place each item on a tray and how it can be offered with warmth and joy.

Children can actively participate to bring order to the home, arranging kitchenware in storage shelves and their personal items like their clothes, shoes, toys, books and even school supplies. Dr. Montessori always emphasized how children can enjoy these activities if they are presented not just as chores but as endeavors to connect, engage and develop healthy relationships with the people and the practical environment that they live in.

**Continued...**

For she said, *“any child who is self-sufficient, who can tie his shoes, dress and undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity, which is derived from a sense of independence.”* (Dr. Maria Montessori, Child in the family)

**Silver Lining Stories**

- Kavneet Chadha

*The past year has been challenging. It has also been an opportunity for children to spend more time with parents and for parents to observe their little ones like never before. In this series, parents share moments of learning during these homebound times.*

The present situation has brought ups and downs in family life like never before and children are witnessing adults around them find their way around it. Karunashree Garuda, a mother of a 3½ year old, feels that in the past year her daughter Urvi has been exposed to a range of emotions from them as parents, as she also discovers her own. *“We tried to address, talk, converse and name many of the feelings felt at home which probably translated in helping Urvi build her emotional intelligence and be able to better communicate her feelings”*, shares Karuna.

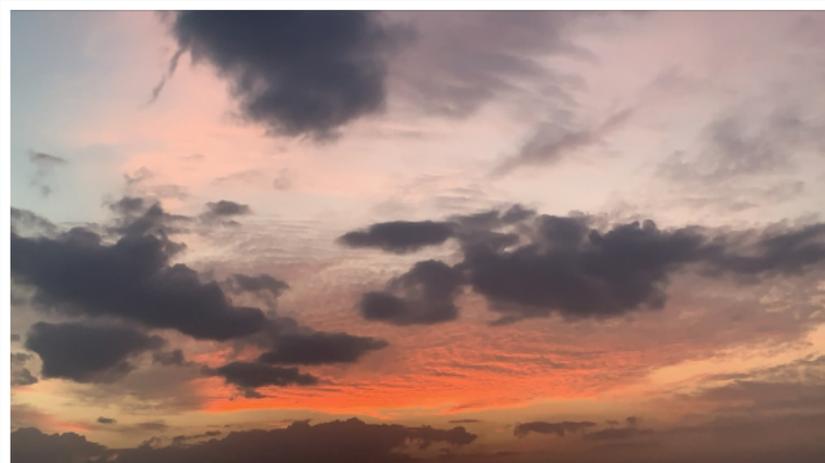
Karuna feels that this has led her to be empathetic. She observed how Urvi took extra care not to disturb her resting father during her play as he worked through the night. *“When Urvi wakes up, she doesn’t make any sound, she tiptoes in the room, carefully takes what she needs and quietly closes the door behind her.”* On another occasion, her mother noticed her slowing down her scooter, controlling her body as she neared the bedroom door.



Urvi has an accessible space in almost every area in the house, be it in the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, living room and outdoors. There are also age appropriate activities set up on a shelf for her to choose and work. *“It has also been a joyful period of observing her evolving independence both in thought and action. She is very hands on and actively participates in our daily life. Like all families, we have had our fair share of challenges with her, but overall it has brought us closer and made our bond stronger”*, concludes Karuna.

**Everyday Wonders !**

Kamini Kapur, Elementary Trainer in training and nature enthusiast, takes us on a photo trail as she ponders on the marvels of nature in everyday life. Join her in exploring your own backyards with children !



' Nature's Palette ! '

# Frequently asked Questions answered by AMI Trainers!

We often wonder during the developmental years if we, as caretakers of young children, are making the right decisions and providing our children with the support they need. In this segment, we have trained educationalists answer a series of queries and help us in this journey.



Rukmini Ramachandran, leads the training team at the Navadisha Montessori Foundation, Chennai and currently serves as the Managing Trustee of the Indian Montessori Foundation. Her most particular interest lies in publishing for children.

## Question:

As working parents, it is difficult to continuously guide the resources used online as the children slip into playing games on the device when they get bored. Your suggestions please!

## Answered by Rukmini Ramachandran :

The internet is a public space, an open jungle. It is very important for us to remember this. It is wise that as the children are growing up with access to the internet that we are aware of their interests and their activities just as we would be if they went out on the streets. The answer to your question depends upon the age of your child. With children under the age of 6 it is best not to leave them alone with the internet regardless of whether they are accessing 'useful' resources or 'useless' games. Unrestricted access is not a good idea. It is best to access the internet with your child so that you know what they have experienced and then restrict access. You can ask the child to do another more reality based activity when you are at work or otherwise occupied.

**Become a donor to access Rukmini's article 'Using Internet Resources Wisely' with other interesting questions. Visit the donor's section in our website <https://montessori-india.org/>**

## CONNECT WITH US !

FOR IMF EVENT ALERTS, COURSE UPDATES AND MORE...



@indianmontessorifoundation

Montessori Institute of Bangalore (MIB) has been set up in Bangalore to bring AMI Montessori training and practice to the city.

**Mission**  
The Mission of the Institute is to revive AMI training in the city and to help establish a strong school community in which the principles of child development, and educational practices set out by Maria Montessori are implemented and practiced.

**Vision**  
The Vision of the Institute is to offer a full range of Montessori Courses for different age levels. The organization hopes to reach out to serve the needs of the community through a variety of AMI courses and programmes.

**Courses Offered**

<b>Orientation Courses</b> Assistants to Infancy (0-3) Primary (3-6) Elementary (6-12)	<b>Diploma Courses</b> Assistants to Infancy (0-3) Primary (3-6) 
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**Sapling Diya**  
is looking for trained adults to lead our Elementary Environment in Pune starting April 2021.

If you are looking to further your career in an organisation that puts people first and gives you the freedom to implement your ideas, please email us on [info@diyamontessori.org](mailto:info@diyamontessori.org)

We're offering a highly competitive salary along with accommodation allowance.



Sir Ratan Tata Institute in affiliation with



Offers Montessori Primary Training (3 – 6 age level)

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Email: [zarinmalva@gmail.com](mailto:zarinmalva@gmail.com)

Website: [www.montessori-mumbai.org](http://www.montessori-mumbai.org)



*Touch Board Team**Editorial Team - Roopa Sundar & Tarunya Gouthaman**Reporting Team - Aditi Ganesh, Kavneet Chadha, Meera Ghelani & Vidhya Ramalingam**Layout Designer - Priyanka Kumar**Advertising Coordinators— Archana Narayanan, Jezreena Jezer & Khyati Shah**Trustees**Shirley Madhavan Kutty, Kamini Sundaram, Leela Samson, Zarin Malva, Rukmini Ramachandran**Do send in articles or news to [thetouchboard@gmail.com](mailto:thetouchboard@gmail.com)***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 tariff.

**The Touch Board (colour; 6 x 8 cms)**

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

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

1 issue	₹1000
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The advertisements can be sent to [thetouchboard@gmail.com](mailto:thetouchboard@gmail.com) to reach us on or before the 5th of the previous month.

**Donate generously to IMF!**

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

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Donations of Rs. 2000

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**AMI MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of AMI is open to all individuals. AMI members are a stronghold in the Montessori community, putting Montessori education in the spotlight and making a difference to the lives of children. AMI membership brings with it: educational publications such as the AMI Journal, digital newsletters keeping you up to date with the latest on AMI's work and news from across the globe, and discounted offers at congresses, refreshers and other events.

Become part of a worldwide community dedicated to the rights of the child and to supporting human development.

Membership fees begin at 40 euros.

To become a member, please visit [www.montessori-ami.org](http://www.montessori-ami.org)