THE TOUCH BOARD



NOVEMBER 2022
VOLUME 14
ISSUE 5



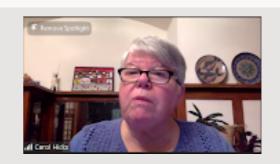


Photo Courtesy: Los Ninos Montessori School

IMF Talk - 'Supporting the Intellect in the Second Plane'

- Meera Ghelani, Online

The Diwali celebrations were no impediment for the 101 participants who attended the online webinar presented by Carol Hicks on October 22, 2022. Carol reminded everyone of the work of the child and how we must let him take the lead. She stressed on the importance of giving the second plane child (6–12 years) reality and the marvels of the world, which is the true source for imagination. Pankti Goradia, a student from Mumbai was most struck by the idea of giving the children the tools to gather information instead of giving the information.





It is only duty and fatigue which can be induced from without, never interest!

IMF Volunteers Meet

- Kavneet Chadha, Chennai

The IMF Volunteers Meet was an opportunity for the gathering including Touch Board, Montessori Matters, School Connect, Events and Admin teams to understand the work of each other. The Fifth Annual IMF Volunteers meeting took place on October 1, 2022 Navadisha Montessori Foundation. Trustees of the organisation and volunteers from different cities across India connected in Chennai and those who couldn't travel made it online. Activities of the previous year were reviewed and plans were made for the year ahead. Rachita, who had joined the Events Team in Mumbai had been working online through the one and a half years. She was thrilled to finally meet everyone in person.

"I enjoyed spending the entire day with my team and getting to know each one individually." -Rachita



IMF Talk - 'Raising Joyful Readers'

Aditi Ganesh, Chennai



Many teachers and parents across different schools came together to listen to Rukmini Ramachandran at Patasala Montessori School on October 27, 2022.

Rukmini steered the talk from academic goals of reading to the sheer joy and pleasure of stories. To Harini Karuna Prakash, a Montessori Educator, the connections of reading made with what adults think as mundane everyday activities was an eye-opener. "How something as simple as a bath becomes a story in the child's life with him as a central character is an idea that will stay with me."

Many thoughts reading multilingual books, explaining translating stories, and voice modulation were discussed following the talk.



Participants engrossed at the talk and browsing through the IMF Publications on display







Train to be an Educator REGISTRATIONS OPEN

Next to Khareghat Colony

Mumbai - 400007

Second AMI 0-3 Diploma Course (Blended format)

By Julia Hilson AMI 0-3 Trainer

	Indian National Fees	1,95,000/_	
	Foreign National Fees	8,397 US\$	

Course Duration: December 2022 - March 2024

This course is suitable for parents, grandparents, caregivers and anyone interested in early childhood development.

OFFERED BY MONTESSORI INSTITUTE OF BANGALORE

E-mail: course@montessoribangalore.org website : www.montessoribangalore.org Phone : 9972866443





MONTESSORI TRAINING AND RESEARCH TRUST

The Montessori Training Research Trust, Hyderabad offers the AMI Montessori Primary Diploma Course (3-6 Age Level) ; AMI Montessori Elementary Diploma Course (6-12 Age Level): AMI Assistant Certificate Course (3-6)

www.montessorihyderabad.org

info@montessorihyderabad.org

(+91 82972 63546

The Montessori Training and Research Trust, 5-424/1, S.R.Naik Nagar, Jeedimetla, Telangana, India, 500055



Peek into the Insect World

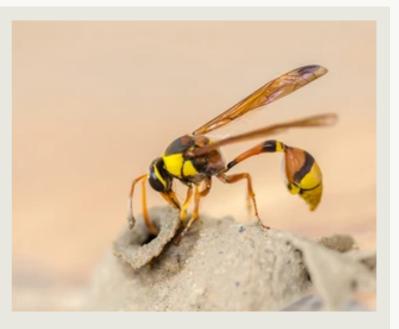
Children are innately curious about the environment around them, insects being a big part of it. Unless adults take an interest in this natural world, we will be unable to share this richness and joy with children. To aid in this journey of awareness, we bring to you snippets of information about these fascinating creatures in our very own backyards.

- Jezreena Jezer

Potter Wasp

The potter wasps build their nest in every possible nook and corner of houses. They are also called mason wasps. They are distributed around the world. They get their name 'potter wasp' from the shape of the mud nests they build. These nests look like a miniature pot or jug. Some seal their nests with chalk. Potter wasp is a generic name. Delta pyriforme is a species of potter wasp.

They are predators and help in natural control of many types of caterpillars including some beetle larvae. They hunt caterpillars or some insects, paralyse them and place them in the compartment. They then poke the insect and they lay their eggs inside the insect.



The larvae hatches inside, eat the insect, pupate and then come out. After a wasp emerges as an adult, the opening is mostly perfectly round, adding to the illusion that it was thrown on a potter's wheel. They chew a hole through the thin side of the pot.

The adult feeds on flower nectar. They are solitary. When they are away from their nest, they are not bothered by the disturbance around them. But they are very defensive and will chase and sting if someone touches their nest.





















SRI UMAPATI PATIL MEMORIAL MONTESSORI HOUSE OF CHILDREN

ADDRESS:

Brindavan Colony, Manvi, Raichur - 584123

CONTACT:

supmmontessorimanvi7@gmail.com +91 90087 33032



MIG 3. Lane Opposite to DLF.
Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500032
CONTACT:
info@blueblocks.in
+91 90009 55050



IMF Talk - 'Supporting a Child's Holistic Development'

- Meera Ghelani, Mumbai

Organised by the IMF this was the on-site event after pandemic in Mumbai. Everyone was glad to meet and discuss their favourite topic Montessori education and all things related to it. Pavithra Rajagopalan stressed on how the child can be supported, holistically, catering to all his needs and why it was essential to do so. The question answer session end was also quite enlightening and left the listeners with food for thought.



On September 29, AMI Primary Trainer Pavithra Rajagopalan inspired and motivated her audience of teachers and parents at Da Vinci Montessori School

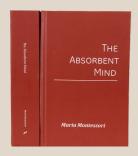
"What really stuck with me was how a child 'being bored' should not be looked at negatively.

Rather, boredom gives the child the freedom to explore the opportunities around him".

-Joanne Lopes, a Primary Educator

Books in the IMF Corner

IMF has published several Montessori books to create awareness about the philosophy in the community and to support students training to lead Montessori classrooms. Montessorians share their favourite snippets from the IMF publication.



"The 'trauma of birth', it is now realized, leads to something much worse than the cries and protests of the child; it causes the child to develop in abnormal ways. The result is psychic change, or rather a deviation of the psychic forces. Instead of taking the path that we call normal, the child's development is deflected in an unfortunate direction.

Instead of making progress, those who suffer from a negative reaction of the shock of being born give the impression of still being attached to the state of affairs before birth..... The tiny baby's long hours of sleep are considered to be normal, but too long a sleep is not normal, even in the newborn, and Freud regarded it as a kind of refuge to which the child retires, an expression of the revulsion he feels towards life and the world."

- Montessori Maria, The Absorbent Mind, Chapter 7, Page 119

I came across the paragraph while studying for my essay on 'Normalization and Deviations' and it struck a cord with me. The fact that what has been happening for years is considered normal even though it may not be so requires one to introspect life and the nature of our minds in a more thoughtful and mindful manner. It is only then that we would be able to be of help to ourselves and serve the needs of the child as well so that we are able to then manifest our tendencies.

Karuna Lulla, Primary Educator, Mumbai

To get your copy of The Absorbent Mind, visit www.montessori-india.org/store/

Beginnings of Life - The First Year

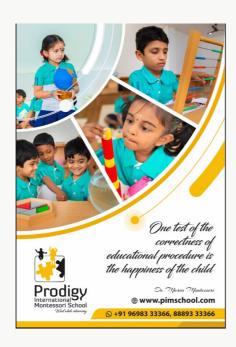
Vibhuti Jain, the first Indian AMI Assistants to Infancy (0-3 years) Trainer lays focus on the child in the very first year of life and how adults can prepare both themselves and create a loving space to welcome and nurture the spirit of new life.





Photo Courtesy: Shweena Shah

The newborn is born with a large number of brain cells called neurons. However, these neurons need to be connected so that the child can create coordinated movements which are guided by the mind. Nature provides a wonderful opportunity to make neural connections in the first three years of life. When the baby is allowed to explore using the sense of touch, smell, vision, etc., offered freedom of movement as well as the possibility to repeat the activities of their choice, the neural connections become stronger and permanent. This aids the development of coordinated movement and forms the basis for the architecture of the brain.







Address: 34, Raja Street, Kalyani Nagar, Kottivakkam, Chennai – 600041

Contact: +91 99405 83666

Address: Old #10, New #19, Arundale Beach Road, 1st Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai – 600090 Contact: 044 2491 3557

info@redwoodmontessori.in

The Montessori Academy



 We are looking for trained adults to lead our Elementary environments in Pune, starting April 2023.

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.in

We are offering a highly competitive remuneration along with accommodation allowance.

Orange Tree Montessori School

ADDRESS

No. 42, Big street, Keelkatalai, Chennai - 117

CONTACT

orangetree.hoc@gmail.com +91 96000 83420

Offerings to a Montessori Environment

Parents are always looking to make meaningful contributions to the Montessori community during special occasions. In this series, Montessori teachers share ideas for gifting to a Montessori environment - Toddler, Primary & Elementary.

- Roopa Sundar & Meera Ghelani

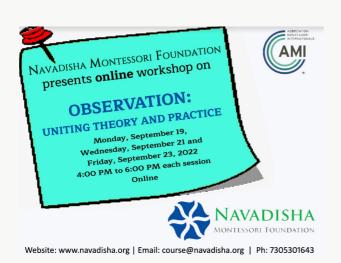
Children gravitate towards music and absolutely enjoy singing and moving to songs. In a Montessori classroom we can always witness small groups of children getting together and singing, some with accompaniments of instruments.

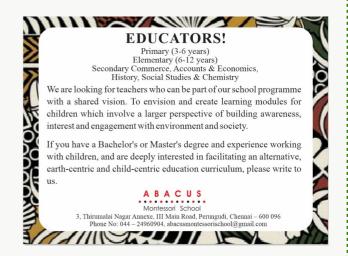
A music corner or a music shelf is something many classrooms have with some provision to even listen to pieces of music from specific instruments. Along with it percussion instruments are also made available to children with demonstrations of how to use them and keep the tune. Different musical instruments like triangle, maraca, cymbal, rhythm sticks, tambourine, can all be relished and explored at varying levels by the children.



Photo Courtesy: Sumana Sharma

"Diatonic handbells and traditional musical instruments are a lovely addition to any classroom"
-Bhakti Maru, Mumbai





The Child, The Explorer



In this segment, Rajini Nitin Talreja brings to the forefront the workings of the mind of young children and how we can best support their exploration of the world.

Rajini stumbled upon Montessori when she shifted gears from the Tech industry. She is an AMI Primary Diploma holder and has immense experience assisting and guiding young children. She currently works as an Academic Coordinator for the Children's House Community and supports the adults in keeping the space enriching for the children.

Communication with Children

Communication helps us to understand and thereby support the child. When we connect child the it's always easy communicate with them effectively. When children are being heard, they will also learn to listen. Behaviour, also communicates one's thoughts and feelings. As adults, it's very crucial to always observe the non-verbal behaviour and body language of children to thev are understand what trvina communicate.



Photo Courtesy: Visalakshi Chidambaram

Communication should be respectful, respecting each other's personality and respecting each other's opinions. Children cannot be expected to do everything simply because we, as a parent, 'say so.' They need modeling of behaviour and the communication of the adults has to be consistent, in order for them to follow suit. Parents and adults who are respectful in their communication with children, allow them to understand and learn in a non-judgmental way. Few things to keep in mind while communicating with children

- Communication is both ways so make your expectations clear
- Speak to them courteously
- Allow them to speak uninterrupted
- Maintain eye contact
- Always come down to the child's level
- Use simple words and sentences







AMI Primary Orientation Course

-Vidhya Ramalingam; Hyderabad



"I realized that children need a guide, not a teacher and the adults should be role models to them. I will definitely encourage every parent to attend this course as it will help them to raise an independent adult who can contribute to the society and nation",

-Mahaveer Manisha, parent of two.

The Little Scholars Educational Society under the guidance of AMI Primary Auxiliary Trainer Madhavi Latha Polipalli offered the two week AMI Primary Assistants Certificate Course in October. The lectures, group reflections, observation and hands-on practical sessions aided in understanding the needs of the child and preparing an environment where they can flourish. Coming from a Commerce background, Parinika Gupta had no idea about the Montessori system of education. "The course was so fascinating and I understood that it's not rocket science to make children learn concepts, but the guidance and the appropriate environment which is required." The participants also included many parents who wanted to better understand Montessori as their children were part of Montessori schools.

Demystifying Montessori Materials

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).

- Archana Narayanan & Khyati Shah

Adjective

In any language, groups of words create meaning. And every word in that group has a particular function. In order to be able to speak and communicate clearly, children need to be aware of these basic functions of words.

When they begin to speak at two years of age, they already have experience from listening. In the Montessori environment we play oral games with the children. These games help them to become aware of the function of words. The adjective has a describing function. We offer the children an adjective to identify a particular object from among others like it. We ask the child to bring us a pencil and when they bring us , say, a red pencil, we tell them "Not this pencil, I was thinking of another one. Can you bring me the blue pencil?" Once the children can read and write, this oral game becomes a written game. There are several variations to the game, focusing on logic of the objects described by common adjectives – a sweet song, a cuddly toy. The activity helps to enrich the young child's vocabulary and allows him to lay a foundation for the study of grammar.



Photo Courtesy: Ubuntu Montessori School

AMI Adolescent Course Inauguration

-Meera Ghelani, Kodaikanal

The first ever AMI Adolescent diploma course in India commenced on October 7, 2022 at the prestigious 125 year old Sacred Heart College in Kodaikanal. This historical wooden structure also houses the Spiritual Ecological Center. Director of Training, Jenny Höglund from the Montessori Centre for Work and Study, Sweden is offering this course in 3 modules, the first in Kodaikanal and the other two in Pondicherry to 37 students who are mostly from India.

"The place is all conducive to learning. I want to become an academic saint!", shared Subashree Sitaraman, a Primary and Elementary diploma holder. Revisiting the 4 planes on the first day was like a reaffirmation to her.

"It's magical.. the place, the batchmates, the trainers! I have no words to describe it. There's something in the air.... It's transformative", gushed Reena V Subash.



Students of the first batch of the AMI Adolescent Diploma Course in Kodaikanal



Jenny Höguland sharing a laugh with AMI Primary Trainers Rukmini Ramachandran and Ruby Lau as her daughter looks on







Adolescents at Work



Adolescents preparing the soil for cultivation in the school farm, Abacus Montessori School

Over the past few years, the 'Erdkinder' program has been gaining momentum, establishing strong roots for the AMI Adolescent Training (12 - 18 years) to take-off here in India. In this series, we bring to you glimpses of the adolescent community engaged in purposeful work across various prepared environments.











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.



Pavithra Rajagopalan is an AMI Primary Trainer. She has over 20 years of experience in the field of Montessori education. Pavithra is faculty at the Sir Ratan Tata Institute, Bombay, India. She is also part of the faculty for the Diploma course in Taiwan and Beijing and has conducted Assistant/ Orientation courses in India, Israel, Singapore and China.

Question:

My child is shy to engage in conversations, how can we help them open up and be more expressive?

Answered by Pavithra Rajagopalan:

One of the first things we have to do is not talk about the child in front of them. We also have to refrain from characterising the child as shy, timid, or under confident. If we think it, chances are, we are showing it in the way we interact with the child. And they will know for certain, even if we haven't actually said the words.

There is also the preparation that we have to do within ourselves to know that we can't MAKE the child talk. The conversation has to happen on its own, when the children are ready. So this requires a little bit of letting go – of our worries and expectations.

Once we have done this, then the only thing left to do is actually show children what conversations are. To do this without meaning to make it a lesson, but one where we actually enjoy the conversation would be key. A conversation involves exchange of thoughts and opinions. One person says something, the others listen, and someone adds something that is related in some way. Each of these are different skills – saying things in a coherent manner where my thoughts are verbalised in exactly the way I intend to, paying attention to another person talking and understanding what they are saying while at the same time aligning my own thoughts to the conversation, and being able to edit my thoughts and saying what is relevant. As adults, we have to provide good examples of conversations with all of these elements to children.

If children are in situations where they find all of the above, and where they feel their input is valued without being coerced, more often than not, they will have something to say.

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

	Day	Month	Time	Event	Topic	Speaker
IMF EVENTS	Saturday	27-Aug-22	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk	Relevance of Montessori Today	Virginia Viscovic
	Saturday	22-Oct-22	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk (Online)	Supporting the Intellect in the Second Plane	Carol Hicks
2022-23	Thursday	27-0ct-22	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk Patasala Montessori School, Chennai	Raising Joyful Readers	Rukmini Ramachandran
	Saturday	19-Nov-22	9 AM - 12 PM	AMI Students Workshop (Online)	Stories in Human Life	Gowri Ramnarayan
دا—ل	Saturday	19-Nov-22	9 AM - 12 PM	Workshop RTI Centre, Mumbai	Setting limits for all planes of development	Beena Parekh
	Thursday	24-Nov-22	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk Prakruthi Montessori School, Hyderabad	Helping young children live in harmony with nature	Deepa Sreekumar
	Thursday	24-Nov-22	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk Nivriti, Bangalore	Support Staff listening to children	Shalini Tilak
Register now	Saturday	26-Nov-22	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk (Online)	Living peacefully with Children	Irene Fafalios
on montessori-india.org	Thursday	19-Jan-23	5 PM - 6 PM	Talk Savi Montessori School, Mumbai	Reading your child's milestones	Geeta Savla
	Saturday	28-Jan-23	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk (Online)	Supporting the Development of Movement in the First Plane	Connie Black
	Saturday	25-Feb-23	4 PM - 5 PM	Talk (Online)	Preparing the Child's Environment	Janet McDonnell

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 ms)

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

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

1 issue	₹1000

be advertisements can 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.

Friend of IMF - Silver Card - Two years validity

Donations of Rs. 2000

Donor Benefits: Special access to Donor's section on the IMF website; 16 issues of the newsletter; 2 issues of annual journal; Special Donor pass to IMF events

Friend of IMF - Gold Card - Five years validity

Donations of Rs. 4500 Donor Benefits: Special access to Donor's section on the IMF website; 40 issues of the newsletter; five Annual Journal; Special Donor pass to IMF events

For more information, Contact: 8248010258 or email us at infoemontessori-india.org

THE TOUCH BOARD TEAM

Editorial Team - Roopa Sundar & Tarunya Gouthaman

Reporting Team - Aditi Ganesh, Kavneet Chadha, Meera Ghelani & Vidhya Ramalingam

Layout Design - Priyanka Kumar

Advertising Coordinators— Archana Narayanan, Jezreena Jezer & Khyati Shah

TRUSTEES

Shirley Madhavan Kutty, Kamini Sundaram, Zarin Malva, Rukmini Ramachandran

Do send in articles or news that you wish to share, to thetouchboard@gmail.com!