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Child fastening buckles on frame

Photo Courtesy - Casa Vista



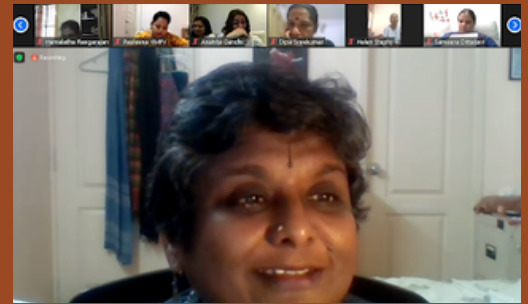
‘Concentration’ is not a term generally associated with young children. In this photo series, we bring you a glimpse of the Primary environment (3-6 years) with children focused for extended periods of time in work that is challenging, developmentally appropriate and of their choice.

IMF Talk - ‘Bringing up Self Confident Children’

Vidhya Ramalingam | Online

Rukmini Ramachandran shared how our behaviour, presence and immediate action or pulling ourselves away to let the children live their lives played a role in building confidence. Children need to be surrounded by an environment that communicates that their every action is being trusted, which in turn builds the courage to act upon the environment.

To Vijeta Salian, a parent, this subject was so critical but explained in a very simplistic way to help parents and teachers not be a hindrance or hamper children’s confidence. *“The talk gave useful glimpses and practical tips on what we as parents while communicating with our child can keep in mind”*, adds Mansi Somaia, another parent.



AMI Primary Trainer Rukmini Ramachandran’s talk on July 15 2023, focused on some of the core principles and practical strategies in raising self-confident children.

International Montessori Congress

Kavneet Chadha | Bangkok

The 29th International Congress saw 700 plus delegates from over 40 countries come together to rethink education. Kavya Chandrashekhar, Executive Director of Montessori Institute of Bangalore shares her experience from the Congress, themed ‘Education for a New World’. Many keynote speeches, breakout sessions and discussions with heads of school, practitioners and policy makers reaffirmed her belief that Montessori Education provides the needed framework for a New World. *“The congress provided me with the needed hope and inspiration in my work with children, parents and team members.”*



Kavya with Carolina Montessori, great granddaughter of Maria Montessori



“Participants were treated to an impressive variety of eminent speakers from different walks of life. This experience was further augmented by the quintessential Thai hospitality and display of their rich culture” Aparna Iyer, AMI Primary Auxiliary Trainer

City Events

AMI Elementary Orientation Course

Kavneet Chadha and Prabha Karthik | Online

AMI Elementary Auxiliary Trainer, Prabha Karthik led a group of 23 participants across 3 countries in their attempt to understand the elementary child and Montessori pedagogy. The Montessori Institute of Bangalore (MIB) offered this introductory course online from July 26 to August 17, 2023 and is all set to present their first Elementary Diploma Course in January 2024.

Lakshmi Raju is now in awe with the idea of cosmic education. She endeavours to acknowledge, appreciate and be a curious learner of life around her. She shares how Prabha's experiences helped them to understand concepts dealt with. "After this interesting course I am looking forward to the adjunct course which will help me learn the details and have on-site experiences."



"Although this short course only allows one to dip their feet in the ocean of Montessori philosophy, it was heartwarming to see how radically students' views about children and their needs and capabilities, as well as their own role in children's development, changed." - Prabha Karthik

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AMI Primary Diploma Course Inauguration

City Reporters | Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad

It's the time of the year when individuals across the country embark on their journeys of becoming Montessori guides and truly seeing the potential that the child is. Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad symbolised this beginning of the Primary Courses with lighting of lamps and planting saplings and getting to know the community with which they will closely work for the next months. Students were very excited about all that they were about to learn and the adventure that would unfold and equally nervous about all that needed to be accomplished.

Priyanka Bavishi from Mumbai adds how the inauguration was beautifully organised for them to be prepared and admits that being a student after so many years was indeed daunting. By the end of the course the students expected to become better and more confident individuals and parents and hoped their learnings would manifest in their everyday life.



The 20th AMI Primary (3-6) Course commenced on August 16, 2023 in Navadisha Montessori Foundation with 41 students under the guidance of Primary Trainers Rukmini Ramachandran, Hemalatha Rangarajan and Ramya Sridhar.



"We wish to successfully finish the course, make use of the new opportunities that open up and be a good teacher and role model to the children we come in contact with." - Montessori Training and Research Trust (MTRT), Batch 23

"We walked in unsure of what to expect. From the moment we were assigned lockers to the time we clipped our name cards and stepped into the class we were quietly in awe of our surroundings, the class room and work area. Everything had an order to it which garnered more appreciation once we sat through the orientation by the Director of Training, Teenaz Reporter. We slowly realised, this is the Montessori way", shared the students from MTRT, Hyderabad.



Zarin Malva, Director of Training of Sir Ratan Tata Institute (RTI) orienting the students of the 27th AMI Primary Course batch on August 18, 2023.



The 6th batch of students of the Montessori Institute of Bangalore (MIB) as they keenly observe presentations by Directors of the Course, Suneeta Madnani and Anahita Gandhi

Demystifying Montessori Materials

Prabha Karthik

Cosmic Education that is offered in Montessori Elementary (6-12 years) is synonymous to offering the world with its interdependencies and interrelationships to the child. Prabha, an AMI Auxiliary Elementary Trainer, shares some of her favourite materials and how the elementary children explore with them.

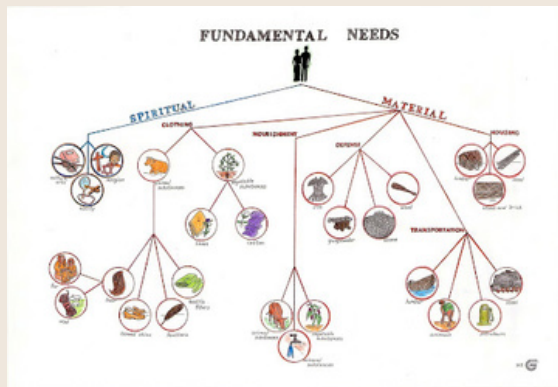


Fundamental Needs Chart

The study of human history in a Montessori elementary class is rooted in the study of universal fundamental needs, both material and spiritual. Our fundamental material or physical needs can be classified as food, clothing, shelter, protection, transportation, which are necessary for our survival, while the spiritual needs are the need for love, belonging, security, faith, along with the innately human expressions of religion, poetry, stories, song, art, jewelry and decoration.

It becomes interesting to see that the satisfaction of a particular material need for a group of people has often been determined by the particular geography and climate in which they find themselves. If one lives in the Arctic, their staple will be fish or meat, something they can find in the environment. And the satisfaction of spiritual needs are usually seen as evolving from human experiences and beliefs that are passed on and built upon from generation to generation.

At a time when these intellectual explorers (6 to 12 year old children) wish to understand how society functions, this Fundamental Needs Chart provides a structure for them to explore and classify the many ways in which people satisfy their basic needs. They can study one need at a time, for example - the kinds of shelters people build in different locations, or look at the evolution of shelter across time.



They see that humans everywhere, from the time they first appeared on earth have had the same fundamental needs that we have today. We can appreciate the cleverness and ingenuity of human beings in being able to satisfy the same needs in innumerable ways, based on what they find in their environment.

All human progress and development, all inventions and customs find their roots in the satisfaction of a fundamental need. This becomes a common thread in children’s exploration of the ways of life of people, their movement from place to place and the growth of civilisations. Children can see that beneath the infinite diversity that we see around lies hidden the fundamental commonality that unites us all.

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Self care stories from home

Vidhya Ramalingam

This series brings stories from Montessori homes, of how the environment is prepared for children to function on their own and take care of themselves at varying levels.

2 year old Parth eats Independently with his hands and is comfortable using cutlery as well. He likes to try different kinds of food. The journey to his independent eating was supported over a period of time, both by modeling eating and providing opportunities to eat by himself.

He was given little tastes of food that the family ate once weaning started. When he was able to sit comfortably on the high chair, he sat for meals with the other members of his family and was given the freedom to eat by himself. Navya Jain also shares how her son Advik was similarly supported. *“We made sure we ate with him and also tried to eat slowly, accentuating every movement as we noticed that he tends to imitate with precision.” It was a realization to them that children did not need distractions to eat!*

Parth was offered choices between two things that he would like to eat and given him finger foods like pieces of boiled vegetables so it would be easy to pick and eat. Later he was given mashed dal and rice and a spoon. *“Often more food went on the floor rather than in his mouth”,* shares Jigna Shah. His mother allowed him to eat with both his hands and let him mess his clothes and even his hair! When food or cutlery went elsewhere, she consistently told him things like *“a spoon is for eating”*. She is also grateful to her family for their support in helping Parth on his path to independence.



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Dr. Maria Montessori

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Research Books - Must Haves in Elementary!

Saranya Nair

Fact finding through different means in answer to a question that arises within the child is part of the daily work in an elementary classroom. This series brings a resource of research books that lends itself to such quests of children.

'Discover India - State by State' is a Puffin Books publication by Sonia Mehta. It is a great box set for children to get introduced and acquainted with different Indian states. It carries lots of information about each state and the union territory covering food, festivals, dance, language, literature, famous personalities and more. There are also many little activities and puzzles making it interactive and engaging. The pictures are a mix of photographs and some illustrations. Each book is like a booklet of a particular state without diving deep into complexities..

Elementary children being curious about culture and geography, these books aid as a follow up/research guide for the children and a means for them to discover their country. The series is available to buy on Amazon and costs Rs 3,930.

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Saranya Nair is an Elementary guide at DaVinci Montessori, Mumbai and has been working with children for the past 7 years.

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What's in the IMF store?

In the quest to bring Montessori philosophy to communities and support schools and training centres, the Indian Montessori Foundation has on sale books, didactic language material and furniture that aids independence in young children. AMI Primary Trainer Hemalatha Rangarajan shares significant quotes from Montessori books and what it can mean to a parent/teacher.

Education for a New World

"It must be remembered that in the small child of three years the inner teacher is still at work guiding him unerringly, and when we speak of a free child, we mean one following the guidance of that nature which is powerful within him. The child led by nature goes into all the details of a task undertaken, for example, dusting the top, sides, legs, under-surface and even cracks of a table, when only expected to clean the top. Given freedom and no interruptions by the teacher, he devotes full concentrated attention to his work. Too many teachers are inclined to be continually interrupting and teaching, so the child, who is developing spontaneously, under nature's guidance, cannot get on with a teacher who teaches. The teacher considers that she must lead him from the easy to the difficult, from simple to complex, by gradual steps, whereas the child may go from the difficult to the easy, and makes great strides"

- Maria Montessori, Pages 90, Chapter 10

This chapter is about a three year old child. The ideas are about the relationship between the child and the environment. This chapter is an eye opener for teachers. There are a lot of ideas about the concept/idea of education. It talks about how to help children and what are the obstacles that are being placed in the path of the child's natural development. The role of the teacher is defined throughout this chapter. This particular quote offers clear guidance to the teachers. Ideas in this particular quote will help the teachers to understand the nature of the child and how to help the child in the right way.



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"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."
- Maria Montessori

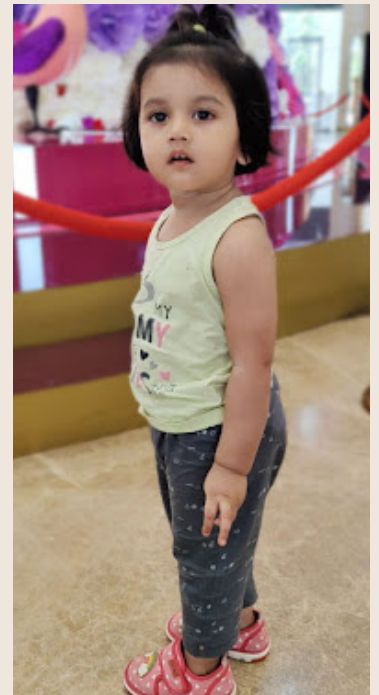
A Parent's Journey in Montessori

Meera Ghelani

The term 'Montessori' has been used and understood in many and different ways. In this segment, parents share how their perception of Montessori and child development has changed and grown along with their child in a Montessori School.

Prepared Environment is a term that is of utmost importance to Montessorians and is a cornerstone of the pedagogy. A prepared environment is space that is created by the adult taking into consideration the needs and characteristics of the child and that which will lead the child to his optimal development. For instance, understanding that a young child is intensely attracted to language, a rich language environment is prepared and acknowledging the young babies need to move for their cognitive development, a safe space is created without obstacles for it.

Neha Jain thought that Montessori was synonymous to a nursery preschool and the term prepared environment perplexed her. She assumed that it was about making the surrounding comfortable for the child, like protecting them from harsh summer. Being part of her three year old daughter, Preha Shah's Montessori community has enlightened her understanding of the term and to look at the child's development holistically. *"The prepared environment encourages curiosity, creativity, independence, movement and concentration. And this prepared environment also makes the adult mindful of all that he does in words and actions before the child."*





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Useful Objects for an Infant

Janani Bhuvaneshwaran

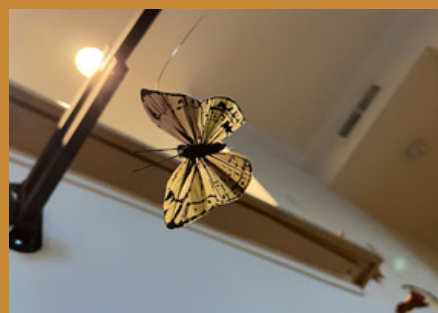
This series talks about essential items that are ideal in a child's home from birth to the age of three. Janani Bhuvaneshwaran tells us about the purpose of these objects, the appropriate time to introduce them and the duration for which the child can utilize them.

Mobiles for Visual and Tactile Stimulation

Hand made simple mobiles help babies build focus through strengthening of eye muscles, with eye hand coordination and most importantly, to help them realise through the simple act of grasping or batting a mobile that their actions have an effect on the environment. Mobiles do not have to be complex. A simple tree branch, a few natural elements from the environment such as dry leaves and twines are more than sufficient. If parents want to get creative, they can make origami shapes of perhaps a bird or a butterfly or they can even crochet or knit simple shapes.



The mobile is made light so that it can sway lightly with the wind and this movement of the mobile captures the child's attention and the repeated capturing and tracking of the mobile in motion helps babies strengthen their eye-hand coordination.



We can begin around 8 weeks with visual mobiles, offer tactile mobiles around 4 months or when babies start reaching for objects in their environment. Mobiles lose their purpose once babies begin moving, around 6 months.

*Janani Bhuvaneshwaran is an AMI certified Montessori guide with diplomas at the 0-3 and 3-6 years level. She works at a Young Children's Community in San Jose, California. "Young children have an infectious and unbiased curiosity towards knowing the world which draws me towards them."

Approach to Mistakes

Vidhya Ramalingam

Errors are part and parcel of the process of learning that disappear with time as the child becomes adept. In this series, Montessori teachers share how mistakes are approached in the classroom and how children are empowered in this process.

Mistakes or making errors are inevitable in everyday life. Furthermore, in a Montessori environment filled with children, all keen to learn different things from different activities, errors that children make are something which the educators tumble upon umpteen times. But these errors help them to learn tremendously if they are held in a constructive manner and in the way that we look at errors. Identifying the origin of mistakes through continuous observation is vital to be able to help the children better.

Sasidevi Thirunavukkarasu and Subha Ramasubramanian who have been working with the primary group of children (3-6 years) agree that observing the children and giving enough opportunity and time to work without intervening while the children are working will help fix their errors. They further say that corrections in a Montessori environment not only happen when an adult represents an activity. Many times, a child autocorrects either by his/her perseverance or observing other children or by development of his/her own perception.



"I remember a child to whom the red rods activity was presented. The child arranged the rods in a random order. Though we observed that he did not build the way it was shown, we did not interrupt. He was completely engaged; he interchanged the positions of the rods. This went on for almost half an hour without any interruption from the adults or other children and finally he built them in the order shown to him. Once he built it, he happily put the rods back on the shelf. This exploration and engagement with the material would not have been possible if the child was offered the help to arrange the rods immediately after his first attempt", recalls Subha.

Sasidevi states that when a child pairs a set of colour tablets incorrectly, it's the child's own perception. We can present the activity again to the child at a later time and we observe again. We have to wait until the child arrives at the right pair after working at it multiple times.

The Little Turtle

Vachael Lindsay

There was a little turtle
He lived in a box
He swam in the puddle
He climbed the rocks.

He snapped at a mosquito
He snapped at a flea,
He snapped at a minnow
And he snapped at me.

He caught the mosquito
He caught the flea
He caught the minnow
But he didn't catch me.



Ode to Nature - Essays by Children

Going with the theme of our upcoming conference, Elementary children from across the country share about the beauty and generosity of earth and how they wish to preserve it.

My inspiration from nature and how it adds value in my life

Advaita Krishna Yeada, 10 Years, Hyderabad

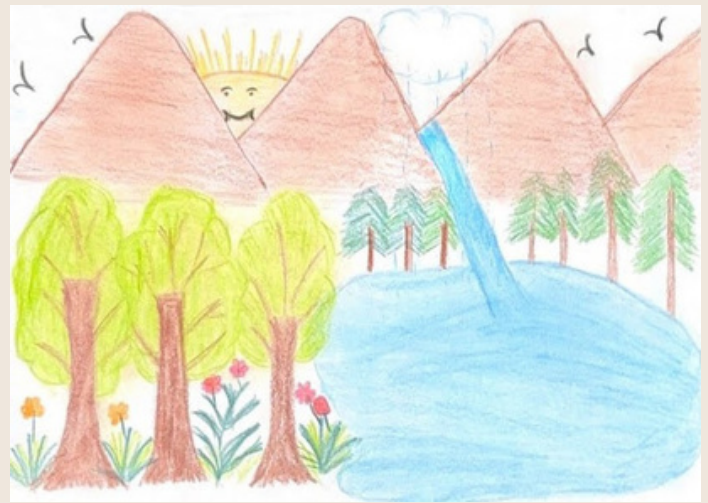
Nature has provided us with important seasons in our life. I have lovely experiences to share about Nature. These experiences have left a lasting impression in my life.

Summer - It is my favourite season. I love the heat of summer. I love playing tennis and cricket under the sun. The heat in summer teaches us to be tolerant in life. Summers give me my favourite fruit mangoes, the sweetest thing that nature could give. To me, summer is all about tolerance and fun.

Monsoon - Rainy season is all about the rain after the hot summers. The rains cool down our Earth. Isn't it brilliant how nature works to make us comfortable? I'm grateful that the rainy season provides us with water which is most essential for our survival. This is the season that I enjoy having hot, fried fritters on my balcony. Monsoon for me is all about enjoying life and being grateful.

Winter - It is a very cold season. It symbolizes the hardships. The festival of Christmas is celebrated in winter and this season inspires me to love, share and care. Winter for me is all about hugging and cuddling.

Spring - It's a wonderful season of blossom and colours! I just love how new leaves grow and how flowers are blooming merrily. The chirping of the birds, insects sucking nectar from the flowers make spring a delightful season. It's perfect weather for long strolls. Spring makes me grin ear to ear and inspires me to stay happy and cheerful.



I adore everything about nature from sunrises to sunsets, the starry nights, the brighter days, the gentle air, the greenery, the rains and the colours of the spring and the fall. This beautiful nature has so much to inspire us. Thus we should always protect our mother nature as it adds value to our life.

A M I M e m b e r s h i p

Membership of AMI is open to all individuals. AMI members form an active community with a strong international presence, 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 their latest 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 or scan the QR code.





EVENTS 2023-2024

SAT, 15 JUL 2023	4-5 PM	BRINGING UP SELF-CONFIDENT CHILDREN SPEAKER: RUKMINI RAMACHANDRAN	 ONLINE
THU, 5 OCT 2023	5-6 PM	PARENTING BEYOND REWARDS SPEAKER: TO BE CONFIRMED	VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED
FRI 19 JAN 2024 SAT 20 JAN 2024	10 AM-4 PM	CONFERENCE: PRAKRITI SPEAKERS: TO BE CONFIRMED	VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED
SAT 24 FEB 2024	4-5 PM	GUIDING CHILDREN TO MAKE CHOICES SPEAKER: TEENAZ REPORTER	 ONLINE

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 to March) and Montessori Matters (Annual Journal).

Communication to target the Montessori community can be published as per the following tariff.

THE TOUCHBOARD
(COLOUR; 6X8 CMS)

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

MONTESSORI MATTERS
Black and white; (full page)
20x12 cms

1 issue ₹1000

The advertisements can be sent to 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 2 YEARS VALIDITY - ₹2000

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