VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 4



Working Hands, Building Minds

Child matching number rods with number cards



'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.

AMI Students Meet by IMF

Vidhya Ramalingam | Online

More than 100 AMI students of various AMI courses from different cities across the country gathered virtually on Maria Montessori's birth anniversary on August 31, for an orientation to the Indian Montessori Foundation (IMF). After being welcomed by Rukmini Ramachandran, IMF Trustee, Teenaz Reporter, Director of Training, MTRT, spoke about the signification of Montessori's work. "*I realised that Montessori education is not an education system, but just a way of life. It reassured me that one's love for children is itself a good starting point to be a great Montessori guide*" shares Jovita Gonsalves, a student of RTI, Mumbai who has started her journey with humble expectations.



The volunteers from each team expressed in a nutshell about their work through which they reach out to the community to spread the work of Montessori. "We got an idea about how IMF works, their publications, newsletters and events throughout the year and how they aim to expand and promote research and development of Montessori education", Kenisha Mehta, Student, RTI. The event was concluded by Zarin Malva, IMF Trustee, who thanked all the volunteers for their efforts and wished all the students a great journey ahead!

The session introduced the five teams of IMF -Montessori Matters, The Touch Board, Events, School Connect and Web Admin.

City Events AMI Elementary Diploma Course Inauguration

Aditi Ganesh I Chennai, Vidhya Ramalingam I Hyderabad

The ninth AMI Elementary Course commenced on September 13, 2023 at Navadisha Montessori Foundation (NMF) with a total of 18 students, under the guidance of AMI Elementary Trainer, Ann Dunn. The day began with the lighting of a lamp, followed by an orientation to the course. *"We were encouraged to come to the course with an open mind to learn things, work hard but still enjoy the process.This work is important for the work of the future generations. I am excited, curious and at the same time want to be more present and mindful to enjoy the course"*, shares Loga Balasubramanian, who is currently working with Primary children.



AMI Primary Trainer, Rukmini Ramachandran welcoming the students and introducing the NMF Training Team



The Medha Montessori Training Institute under the auspices of AMI and MTRT inaugurated its 2nd AMI Montessori Diploma Course on September 14, 2023 at Medha Montessori School. The course is led by AMI Elementary Trainer Madhavi Gaddam.



AMI Adolescent Diploma Course Graduation

Aditi Ganesh I Kodaikanal



The graduation saw a big gathering, with friends and family witnessing the most awaited moment of loved ones receiving diploma certificates.

The first AMI 12-18 Diploma batch of 37 students graduated on September 9, 2023 in Kodaikanal under the guidance of Jenny Marie Hougland from Sweden. A sense of satisfaction filled the air as goodbyes were exchanged, and memories and experiences from various modules were fondly remembered. The trainers shared their first experience in India and how it was equally transformational for them as well.

"The training in Kodaikanal and Pondicherry was a one of a kind and an immersive experience. It gave the big picture of the whole Montessori approach, the aim being to aid life and the grand goal of peace, harmony and human solidarity. My experience through the training is the true understanding of interdependence and community, first hand in Pondicherry. It was truly a spiritual transformation in reflecting on the nature of being human. A marvelous program to educate the future citizens of a better world." - Reena Vijayalakshmi Rajkumar, Graduate.

Workshop - 'Blindfold Making'

Team MTRT I Hyderabad

The Montessori Training and Research Trust (MTRT) organised an onsite material making workshop on September 9, 2023. The workshop was led by Dipa Sreekumar, an AMI Primary Auxiliary Trainer, with support from Teenaz Reporter, the Director of Training at MTRT, and Sindhoori, a former MTRT alumni who volunteered to assist with the workshop.





"The workshop helped me to come out of my comfort zone and learn a new skill of sewing. I appreciate the inclusiveness of the workshop, as it catered to every individual with various levels of sewing experience." - Sriharika, Primary Guide.

Teachers from various schools came together at the workshop, collaborating and assisting each other in crafting lovely blindfolds for children through hand sewing. The morning was dedicated to both socializing and acquiring diverse sewing techniques to improve the skills essential for working with children. *"It brought back fond memories of school when we attended embroidery and art class. We reconnected with old friends and the session was truly meditative in nature at MTRT"*, shares Pauleena, a Primary Guide. The participants

left with a blindfold ready to be used in class and with a template to use in the creation of future blindfolds. The participants expressed their gratitude for the workshop organised and an eagerness to return for future such workshops.



AMI Primary Assistant Course Adjunct

Kavneet Chadha I Bangalore

"The course curriculum was thoughtfully designed, covering topics such as the Montessori philosophy and practical insights into preparing and maintaining a Montessori environment. I gained a deeper understanding of my role as an assistant", shares Shweta Muttreja from Mumbai, who is currently pursuing her Assistance to Infancy (0-3) Diploma.

The participants were grateful for the two day observation and practice teaching in a Montessori environment as it served as a real eye opener. It provided an opportunity to see theory put into practice and gain a real-world perspective. Prassanita from Hyderabad walked away with the idea that children are capable of being independent learners and it is the responsibility of the adult to help only when needed without being a hindrance.



The Montessori Institute of Bangalore (MIB) led by AMI Primary Trainers Suneeta Madnani and Anahita Gandhi hosted the first batch of AMI Assistant Course Adjunct from August 21 to 25, 2023 for the alumni of AMI Primary Orientation Course.

Demystifying Montessori Materials

Prabha Karthik

Cosmic Education that is offered in Montessori Elementary (6-12 years) is synonymous to offering the universe 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.

Grammar Box

The grammar box work centres around the two most important words in a sentence – the noun and the verb. Dr. Montessori saw them as the building blocks of language and as symbols of the two fundamental needs of communication, to name and to express action. She symbolised the noun as a black pyramid that represents matter, ancient and that which does not move on its own. She contrasts this with the verb which she sees as energy, represented by a red ball, the Sun. All the other parts of speech have a relationship with these two. The imagery and the metaphors used in the symbols, the charts that show a relationship between different groups of parts of speech, create an impression in the mind of the child.



When children work with the grammar boxes, make the given sentences with the small cards that have individual words on them and do the actions, their whole body and mind are involved and active. The sentences grow in length and complexity as each of the nine parts of speech is added cumulatively in each grammar box. Symbolising the different parts of speech helps them to see patterns in sentences. As they transpose the words in the sentences, they realise that the same words in different places can be meaningless or convey a completely different meaning from what was intended and that each word in a sentence has a job to do and a place to be.



With the command cards too, these social beings work in groups, read a particular card which might have two or more commands like 'Walk to the door gracefully. Walk to the door briskly.', isolating, as in this example, the adverb. They discuss and interpret what is expected as they act out the command. With these activities, when children begin to think about what exactly a given sentence means, Dr. Montessori says, '*spontaneously, clarity becomes the goal of their efforts*'. [1]

[<u>1</u>] Montessori, Maria, The Advanced Montessori Method, Volume 2, Kalakshetra Publications, Madras, 1965, p87





Campus 2



MISSION

We follow the Mantessori approach and provide our children with the right place at the right time to become happy, confident individuals, ready to face the world!

CAMPUS 1: PRIMARY (2.6 TO 4 YEARS) 20/19 Arundale Beach Read, 1st Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600090.

CAMPUS 2: TODDLER (LTO 2.5 YEARS) No: 30 A. Rukmani Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai – 600090.

CAMPUS 3: ELEMENTARY (6 TO 12 YEARS) No. 34, Raja Street, Kalyani Nagar, Kottinakkom, Chemari - 600043.

CAMPUS 4: TODDLER (L TO 2.5 YEARS) PRIMARY (2.6 TO 6 YEARS) No. 37, Mc Nichols 2nd Lone, Chetyet, Church 1 - 502020

😋 info@redwoodmontessori.in

Self Care - Stories from Home

Roopa Sundar & Meera Ghelani

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.

Toilet Learning is an important part of the child's life and this process can begin right from the start. Be it speaking to the child using all the language involved in toileting and dressing each time they are collaborated with, preparing the toilet area so that they get comfortable with using it, modeling use of toilet, having routine of using toilet during times like after a nap or a feed; and all this preparation happens without expectation.

Priti Sanghvi strived to support this development in her child Ziva. The first thing she chose was cloth diapering, so that Ziva has the opportunity to feel the sensation of being wet. Every time she did potty Priti would talk to her daughter to make her aware of it. She conversed soothingly with her child while changing nappies and letting her know what she was doing, like '*Let's remove your wet nappy. I have a fresh one for you. Will you lift your back so we tuck it under?*'.



Preparation of the toilet also involved choosing between a small potty or making the adult toilet more suitable for the young child by including inserts and stool. Initially Priti chose to use a training pot and once Ziva was able to sit on her own, she placed her on it at intervals and after meals and naps so that she was successful in eliminating in it.

Now at 18 months Priti provides Ziva with comfortable and elasticated pants/shorts so that she can easily remove them when she wants to use the toilet. She has also transitioned into sitting on a larger toilet with a potty seat. She is able to communicate her needs and collaborate in the toileting process.





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BLUE BLOCKS PRE-SCHOOL

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Research Books -

Must Haves in Elementary!

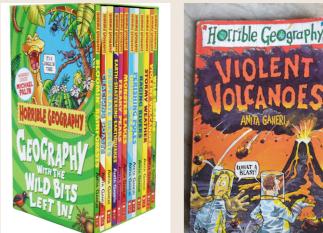
Arunmayee Nara

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.

'Violent Volcanoes' is one of the books in the 'Horrible Geography' series authored by Anita Ganeri and illustrated by Mike Phillips. This book lets us marvel at red-hot violent volcanoes, many facts of volcanoes, such as how they are formed, how they are named, how much damage they can cause, famous volcano eruptions and active volcanoes. There are stories around the volcanoes of the world and engrossing illustrations too, to keep the children interested throughout.

The Horrible Geography book series also includes Planet in Peril, Desperate Deserts, Wild Islands, Monster Lakes, Cracking Coasts and several more which are packed with facts and information that will provide answers to the many probing questions that the elementary children would seek.

Violent volcanoes can be purchased for approximately Rs. 300/and the 'Horrible Geography' series of 12 books for approximately Rs. 3000/- on some of the online shopping platforms.



Arunmayee Nara has been an elementary guide for 4 years and is currently working in Aakriti Montessori House of Children, Hyderabad.

OrangeTree

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THE TOUCH BOARD ||| 6



OCTOBER 2023



Time to Register for the Most Awaited Event!

Registration Fees

- Delegate Fee (Early Bird): Rs. 8,000
- Delegate Fee (after Dec 6, 2023): Rs. 9,750
- Student of an AMI course: Rs. 7,000
- Group of 5 or more (Early Bird): Rs. 7,500 per person
- Group of 5 or more: Rs.8,500 per person (after Dec 6, 2023)

(For Group registration, make **ONE** single payment only. Name your group which must be filled in ALL individual forms. Each person in the group MUST fill in individual registration forms with the same group name)

Bank Details

Bank : **Bank of India** Branch : **Adyar** Current Account No. : **801020110000184** Account Name : **Indian Montessori Foundation** IFSC : **BKID0008010**

Registration fee **MUST** be paid before filling in the form

TO REGISTER :

Please log into the given link: https://montessori-india.org/conference/ or scan the QR on the poster to register!

For any other clarification, please email – imfbangalore2017@gmail.com or info@montessori-india.org



A Parent's Journey in Montessori

Vidhya Ramalingam

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



"We had no idea about Montessori apart from knowing that it was an alternative school. Only after putting the child in a Montessori and observing him we have understood the huge gap in early education in a traditional school environment", says Atiya Sultana mother of 7 years old Mohammed Danish Abdul Hakeem who has been in Montessori since he was two. Atiya shares how the Montessori idea of 'Let the child lead' was a huge challenge for them to imbibe. They initially thought it was to allow the child to do as he wishes.

"Let the child lead doesn't mean only what the child wants to do, it is also about giving the child the space and environment in which he can work without being pushed or forced. It is also about giving choices. When I forced the child, he was reluctant but when I gave him the environment and the time, he showed interest."

Atiya doubted the pedagogy at every stage but it has always surprised her when her child showed humongous development. Now both her children are in Montessori and she is filled with joy as she witnessed them develop love for the environment and curiosity for nature.







Slowly James Reeves

Slowly the tide creeps up the sand, Slowly the shadows cross the land Slowly the carthorse pull his mile Slowly the old man mounts the stile

Slowly the hands move around the clock Slowly the dew dries on the dock Slow is the snail - but slowest of all the green moss spreads on the old brick wall

STAN NOS-STAN

Approach to Mistakes

Roopa Sundar & V Umamaheswari

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.

"To make it clear whether or not a child has understood, we should see whether he can form a vision of it within the mind, whether he has gone beyond the level of mere understanding." - To Educate the Human Potential, Maria Montessori

Research, finding answers to questions that arise within the child is an integral part of the Elementary classroom. This skill to look at a sea of information and focus one's quest has to be honed. Children are guided to look for the right information from various sources for research work.

For example, a child might want to research 'The Sun', but might end up with written information that is not relevant to the topic he has chosen. There are a few ways in which the adult can offer guidance. They can have a discussion and first figure out what it is that the child wants to know about the sun. The child's attention can be drawn to the title and the summary/gist of the book at the backside cover and understand its contents. He can be shown to navigate through the index - identifying the right keywords and navigating it alphabetically through the book. We can show the making of a blueprint from which the child can develop information. Note taking is another skill that the child should be familiar with for research. Not all of this can be done at the same time, but our observation will help us to take these little steps along with the child so that they feel successful in their endeavours.



Photo courtesy: Redwood Montessori School



- Primary Diploma Course (3-6 age level)
- Montessori Orientation and Assistants Course Adjunct (3-6 age level)
- Elementary Diploma Course (6-12 age level)

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"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence." - Maria Montessori Chemai 600095



THE TOUCH BOARD || 10

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.

One thing that I could change about my earth *Akira Reddy, 9 years, Hyderabad*

If I could change one thing in my world, I would control the pollution by reducing the usage of vehicles. I suggest people go walking or on bicycles to travel shorter distances. We can also control pollution by reducing factory waste and managing factory wastes. We can replace plastic with natural products such as paper bags or reusable bags.

I can suggest farmers to avoid using chemicals for controlling pests during farming instead use natural manure or natural pesticides. We should protect our soil without using chemicals. We can protect our soil using organic manure. We can make organic manure with kitchen waste and fallen leaves.

We have to stop war and come together to create more peace. War not only wastes one's country's wealth and it takes many precious lives. We collaborate and work together to create many employment opportunities.

Water conservation is very important. We should check our toilets for leaks, take shorter showers, and turn off water while brushing and shaving. We should take every small step to conserve water.

People in the world should come together and help each other to plant trees. Everything around us from the air we breathe through the food we eat is part of nature.Our planet is the only planet with life. To save it one can use eco-friendly materials; recycling should be done. We must keep our habitat clean and prevent viruses. People should be aware of how diseases are to be controlled. Manufacturing of explosives should be banned and should not be easily available to purchase.



AMI Membership

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

<u>SAT, 15 JUL 2023</u>	<u>4 - 5 PM</u>	BRINGING UP SELF-CONFIDENT CHILDREN SPEAKER: RUKMINI RAMACHANDRAN	ONLINE
- THU, 5 OCT 2023	4-5 PM	PARENTING BEYOND REWARDS SPEAKER: RAMYA SRIDHAR	R E D W O O D M O N T E S S O R I S C H O O L
FRI 19 JAN 2024 SAT 20 JAN 2024	10 AM-4 PM	CONFERENCE: PRAKRITI SPEAKERS: TO BE CONFIRMED	IIHS KENGERI, BANGALORE
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 TOUCH BOARD (COLOUR; 6X8 CMS) 1 issue₹500 4 issues ₹1500

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

7 issues ₹2800

1 issue ₹1000

The advertisements can be sent to thetouchboard@gmail.com to reach us on or before the 5th of the previous month.

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

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