

Toddlers at Work

The photo series introduces the Young Children's Community (14 months to 2.5 years) and their slow paced environment filled with enriching opportunities for movement, language and existing in a microcosmic society.

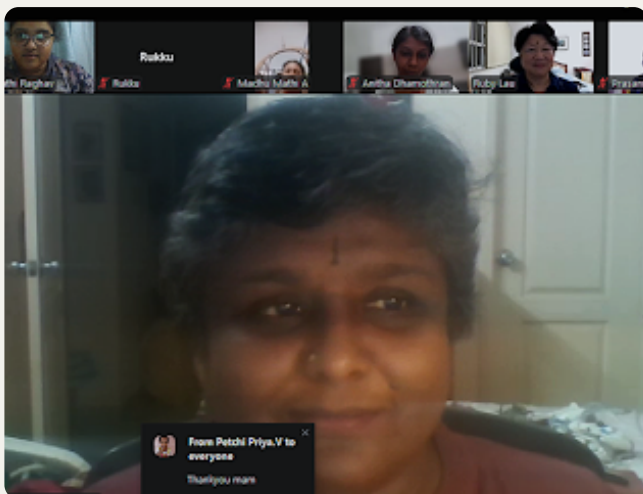
Child working on motor development and coordination with a mailbox

Photo Courtesy - Little Amigos Montessori



IMF Events - Talk - 'Being a parent, Being a Teacher'

Swathi Raghav | Chennai/Online



Supraja Montessori Study Centre hosted an engaging online talk titled 'Being a parent, Being a Teacher' with over hundred participants. AMI Primary Trainer Rukmini Ramachandran explored the dual role of a parent who is also a Montessori teacher, focusing on how to maintain a balance between professional and personal responsibilities. She emphasized that the roles of parent and teacher are deeply interconnected, both rooted in nurturing the child's development with respect, patience, and clear guidance. The 'prepared environment', a concept central to Montessori education as essential for maintaining harmony both at home and in school was also discussed.

"An adult does not only have to model certain behaviors, but must truly live them, making them a natural part of their life for the child to observe and learn from", is what stayed with Ritika Ramesh, a Primary guide from Bangalore.

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AMI Diploma Course Graduation

City Reporters | Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad

The completion of a course is an emotional moment for students and trainers alike. It is a day filled with joy and celebration at the end of a long, demanding, enriching and transforming journey. As a new academic year was within sight, students were eager to step into the world as Montessori guides and champions of the child. *“As we looked back, emotions ran high, bringing to mind the highs and lows, the lessons learned, and deep bonds we had formed. It was a true celebration of our shared journey”*, Tejaswi Kadam, RTI, Mumbai.



Ratan Tata Institute Director Zarin Malva and her team felicitated the 28th batch of AMI Primary Graduates amidst loud applause from their family and friends



“All I wish is to make a difference in those few children whom I’m associated with. I know the journey ahead isn’t easy with much societal pressures, but I feel well armed and ready to take the road ahead” - Sushma Ramayanapu, Primary Batch 24, Montessori Training and Research Institute, Hyderabad



Students of the 21st Primary Batch and 2nd Summer Course at Supraja Montessori Study Centre, Chennai, had a nostalgic ceremony where there was sharing of experiences, poetry and compilation of videos from the course



For Krithika Yegnaraman, a Primary Graduate from Montessori Bangalore, the course has been life-altering as she came to learn about the child and along the way learnt more about herself.



“My 13-month journey with Medha Montessori Training Institute, Hyderabad was truly profound, a foundation on which I will continue to grow” - Aishwarya Tejaswiraj

Nishant Gupta Speaks at 2nd North India Education Summit

Nishant Gupta, IMF Trustee and co-founder of Sketches Montessori School was a speaker at the North India Education Summit, organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The summit brought together influential leaders from NCERT, the government, universities, and schools to exchange ideas and shape the future of education.



The discussion covered critical themes such as equity in education, innovative pedagogical practices, empowering educators, and fostering mental health and well-being in schools. The exchange of insights highlighted the need to reimagine education and build inclusive, future-ready learning environments.

City Events: AMI Diploma Course Inauguration

City Reporters | Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore

Many cities witnessed the coming together of individuals who have chosen the path of understanding the child and creating spaces that are best suited for child development. The varied Diploma courses from different cities are offered in different formats - academic year, modular, blended, and summer, offering a range of possibilities to meet the needs of individuals. *“The primary summer course that started in Hyderabad by MTRT is a great opportunity for me as I can be a part of the course and go back to the reasoning minds in my elementary classroom during the academic year”*, shares Divya Sree Yalamanchili. She adds how AMI courses are beautifully designed in such a way that even though they demand time and energy, one will want to give more and more even at the hardest point of the course because of the love for the pedagogy.

Chennai welcomed its first Adolescent training program in the city at Supraja Montessori Study Centre in June. This significant milestone was made possible under the guidance of AMI Trainer Jenny Høglund, who has been involved with the AMI-NAMTA Orientation to Adolescent Studies since 2003. The inaugural cohort of the Erdkinder Course included parents, newcomers to Montessori education and owners of schools and farms—all united by a shared vision for meaningful adolescent education.



The Montessori Training and Research Trust began their Summer Format AMI Primary Diploma Course in March 2025 with 25 eager students under the guidance of Teenaz Reporter, Director of Training



The second AMI blended Birth to Three Diploma course offered by Ratan Tata Institute was inaugurated in April with AMI Trainer Vibhuti Jain and her batch of 26 enthusiastic students



“We began with a true sense of community, laying the perfect foundation for the rest of the course” - Anju Asokan, Chennai



When it comes to the Elementary Program, the unveiling of Kolkata’s first AMI certified Montessori Training Centre constituted a landmark moment. The Jain Futuristic Academy (JFA) Teacher Training Centre with AMI Trainer Kamini Kapur commenced their Elementary Diploma in May. The event highlighted the institution’s commitment to hands-on, application-based learning and their vision to empower educators from the grassroots level.



The Elementary Course at Medha Montessori Training Institute began in May under AMI Elementary Trainer, Madhavi Gaddam. Like many others, Priyanka Sakhamuru joined the course to understand her children better and is already grateful for this community. *“Interacting with children of this age group is limitless. The journey of our conversation is fascinating. We start here, but can end up anywhere else in the world!”*

IMF Talks - 'Unlocking the Secrets of the Child' & 'Why Montessori Matters for Elementary & Adolescent Years'

In April, IMF led an onsite and an online talk which brought forward the needs of the child across ages. At The School of Montessori, AMI Primary (3-6 years) Trainers Neelima Mhaskar and Zarin Malva took a large parent community on a quest to see the true potential of the young child.

The forty five minute online session by AMI Elementary (6-12 years) and Adolescent (12-18) Trainer Jenny Hoglund was well supported by meaningful examples from her experience with children and parents. Dhvena Shan, an Elementary guide, felt wonderful to be part of this conversation that had a deep impact on her. "It served as a beautiful reminder of the true purpose behind our work."



Kanak Gandhi and Itali Samantray, both parents were left with many ideas like being lovingly firm, allowing space for frustration in a learning process, thus taking on a fresh perspective towards parenting.

IMF and Sketches Montessori School hosted a three hundred plus community on why Montessori continues to matter beyond the first plane.

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Stories from Casa

Anju Asokan

Time and again, children bestow us with moments of absolute wonder. This series follows such instances in the Primary (3-6 years) classroom reinforcing faith in the work that we do with children and the collective community.

"That humanity which is revealed in all its intellectual splendour during the sweet and tender age of childhood should be respected with a kind of religious veneration. It is like the sun which appears at dawn or a flower just beginning to bloom. Education cannot be effective unless it helps a child to open himself to life." - Maria Montessori, The Discovery of the Child, Indian Montessori Foundation, Pg 52

A three and a half year old set up his space to cut along straight lines. He cut strips out of the striped card and arranged them in a container. He finished one card and moved on to pick up another. He goes on to fill the container of strips using over 10 striped cards! In the vicinity, a friend of his laid a mat down to cut snippets using another set. He deftly cuts the strips by severing them into little snippets. The child cutting along straight lines looks through the side of his eye, notices that his friend was about to run out of strips to cut snippets from. Immediately, with a sense of urgency, the child picks up a thick bunch of strips and offers it to his friend by quietly leaving it on his tray for him to continue cutting his snippets and proceeds to pick up the next card for his work.



Photo Courtesy : Navadisha Montessori School

Experiencing Montessori

Vidhya Ramalingam

This series explores parents' perspectives and the advantages they associate with their child's participation in a Montessori community.



"My son has always had a strong desire to learn, and the Montessori environment gave that curiosity and provided the perfect spark, motivating him to enjoy the process of discovery" shares Sugandh Gupta mother of eight year old Som Gupta who has been in the Montessori environment since he was two years old.

Sugandh shares how she witnessed the development of her son's remarkable approach to problem-solving, characterized by critical thinking and logic. *"My child is no longer content with accepting things as they are; instead, he evaluates and then searches for solutions. This shift in thinking has not only built a strong foundation for core subjects but also encourages him to learn independently. As he works independently, he develops confidence in his abilities", she says in amazement.*

The Montessori environment has clearly nurtured a deep love for reading in Som. Reading has become part of his daily rhythm, from the moment he wakes up to the time he falls asleep. His passion for books runs so deep that he has even chosen to sleep in a separate room, just so he can read without interruption. For him, books are more than stories, they are companions. He has completed entire series like Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, Trials of Apollo, Enid Blyton's works, and books by Sudha Murthy, among others.

One Montessori principle that continues to fascinate Sugandh is group learning in the elementary classroom. She observes with wonder how her child who once preferred working independently in the primary environment has naturally shifted to enjoying collaborative learning with peers and sharing their unique strengths and understanding with one another. This approach fosters a sense of teamwork, and mutual support, helping children grow both academically and socially.

"In a Montessori environment, where children work together, a child might become fascinated by what another child is doing and learn from observing them. Without age restrictions on what a child can explore, children feel encouraged to follow their interests. This freedom to explore and learn from one another promotes a love for learning, allowing children to grow at their own pace." - Sugandh Gupta

What Brought me to Montessori!

Kavneet Chadha

Many times Montessori is something that we stumble upon! And once we do, we begin to see children in a new light, wishing we had known before. In this space, Montessori Guides from varied backgrounds share their Montessori journeys.

Rukmini Banerjee Varhadkar from Bangalore has been working in a Montessori community since 2017. Intrigued by her son's 'I mopped!' response to the usual 'What you did in school' query, she decided to learn more about what was happening. "When I took up the AMI Primary diploma I expected it to be helpful in guiding my own child but what I did not expect was the fact that it changed who I was". The course was transformative and showed her the importance of responding, observing, listening, and centering oneself.

Everyday in the community has been a learning experience as Rukmini figures the best way to support each child. She recounts how a young child of three was consistently turning down working with the button frame. He once exclaimed, "That's too hard, the buttons are too big". She wondered with him, "Really? Are you sure the buttons are too big? Or is it the button holes that are small? Come let's see which one it is". The child then readily got the chowkie, placed the frame and waited for her. The presentation focused on the point of interest and he watched intently as he was shown the movements to complete the task. Since then, he approached the frame with enthusiasm every single day to get his movements in order. After a few days, he showed a buttoned frame and said, "it's still hard, but easy!". "Just like life", Rukmini thought to herself. Until we meet the hard head on and work around it, it will never get easy!

Rukmini has always been in awe of the child's gifted mind and their ability to be the best version of themselves when they are offered the right kind of support. "The idea that I am a part of their journey makes me happy."



The love and unconditional acceptance from children makes Rukmini's every day fulfilling!



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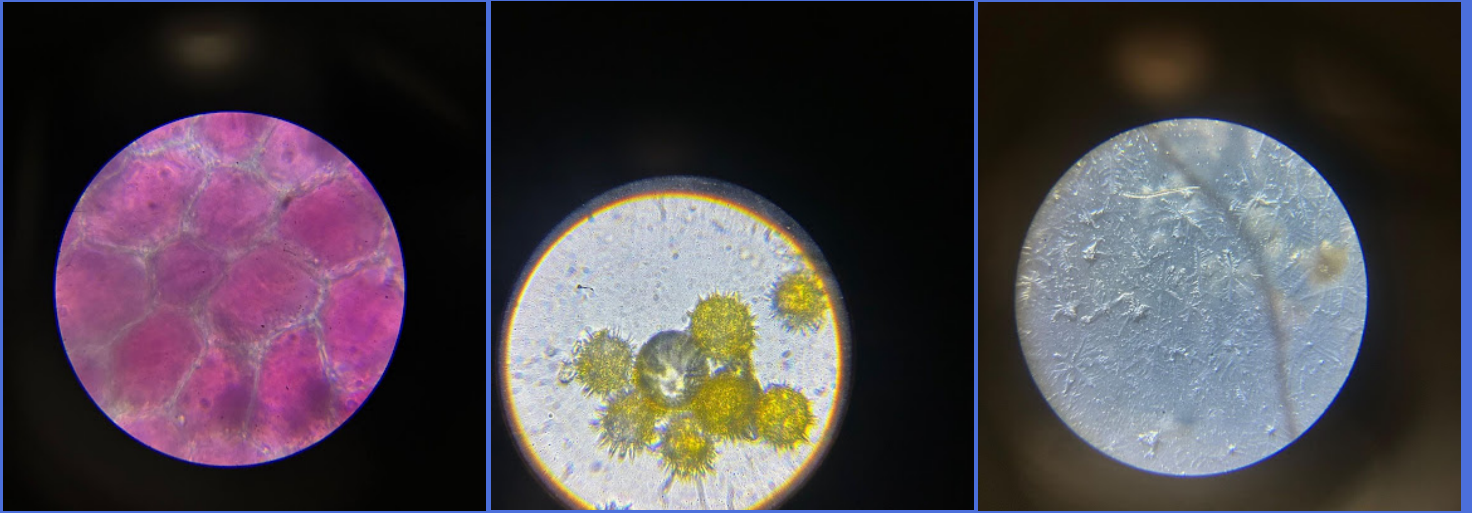
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|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Sat 19th July 2025 | Talk | Montessori Education: An Aid to life | Online |
| Sat 23 August 2025 | Volunteering for IMF | Working together for a thriving community | Online |
| Sat 30 August 2025 | Exclusive Talk for Flagship Schools | Fostering a collaborative Montessori Community | Online |
| Sat 20 September 2025 | Talk | Nourishing Body and Spirit: The Child's Journey with Food | Online |
| Sat 19 October 2025 | Talk | Navigating the Adolescent years | Online |
| Sat 15 November 2025 | Talk | Helping Children Grow in Harmony | Online |
| Sat 6 December 2025 | Orientation | Work of the Indian Montessori Foundation | Online |
| Fri 23 January 2026 Sat 24 January 2026 | CONFERENCE | <u>Seventh National Montessori Conference: SAPARYA</u> | Onsite - Mumbai |
| Sat 21 February 2026 | Exclusive Talk for Flagship Schools | Designing a Prepared Outdoor Environment | Online |

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