

Exploration in Collaboration

Children discussing the life of early humans with a timeline



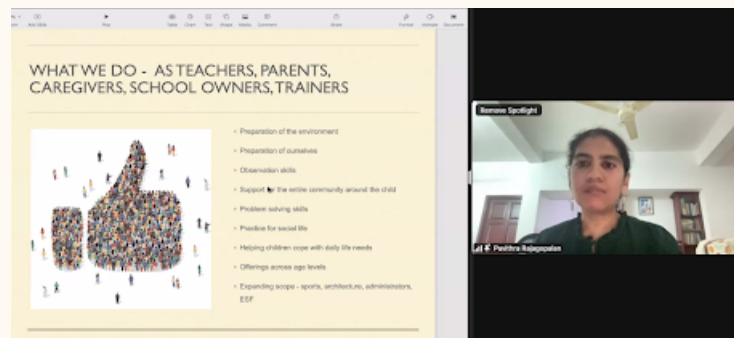
The photo series brings you a glimpse of Elementary (6-12 years) communities where children work collaboratively in their quest for intellectual, social and moral independence.

City Events

IMF Talk - 'Montessori Education - Its Relevance Today'

Meera Ghelani

Indian Montessori Foundation began the year by bringing together 175 Montessorians from all over the country on July 20, 2024. The talk presented by AMI Primary Trainer Pavithra Rajagopalan left the participants with a renewed appreciation for the Montessori method in the current times. Directress, Dipali Madan and a parent, Casilda D'souza, realised the importance of holding back and observing without intervention.



"I was impressed by the idea that the prepared environment with a prepared adult can help actualise the immense potentialities of the child." - Riddhi Rambhia, Elementary Student

Follow us on
Social Media!



@theindianmontessorifoundation



Indian Montessori Foundation IMF

Workshop - 'Language - Hindi'

Vidhya Ramalingam | Hyderabad



Meenakshi Giri stressed on the importance of speaking any language in its authentic form without integrating vocabulary from other languages.

The Montessori Training and Research Trust, conducted a language workshop on July 6 and 7 at Bhavishya Montessori House of Children. More than 40 teachers and parents made the best out of the two day workshop that focused on concepts and exercises relevant to the Elementary classroom. Captivated by the intricacies and nuances of the language, Pooja Rathore, a parent of an elementary child says that she will be able to guide her child better with the understanding that she is taking back with her. "The speaker brought life into the subject through rhythms, songs and stories with vibrant interaction" adds Poulomi Bose, a teacher from Blue Blocks Complete School.

Workshop - 'Basics of Calligraphy'

Kavneet Chadha | Bangalore

Montessori Institute of Bangalore's workshop for beginners gave an opportunity to explore the creative styles of writing. On June 24, the participants were helped with essential tips and techniques in order to improve their letter forms in calligraphy style. Ramya Barithaya shares how learning each stroke in detail before moving to letters helped them to slowly gain confidence.



"I feel that I will be able to utilize this skill to inspire writing and further use them in creating writing samples in many areas of learning." - Preethi Airara, Primary Guide

Prepared Social Experiences

Aditi Ganesh & Roopa Sundar

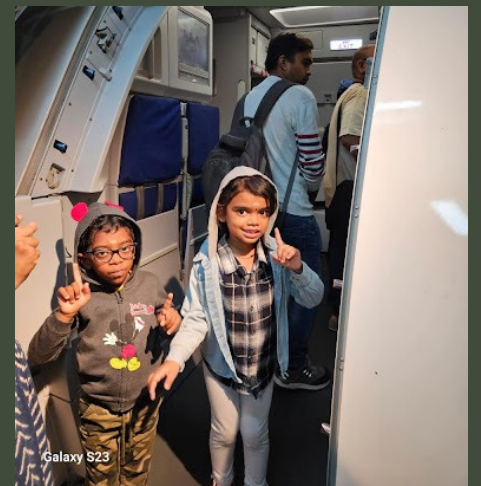
A child's life very soon extends beyond the immediate home and into the larger society. How can this transition be enjoyable by all parties? In this series parents and teachers share their strategies for preparation and planning for these new social experiences.

Encapsulated in restricted quarters for long durations of time is quite challenging for an adult, let alone a child. Any travel with children requires a lot of thought to make everyone comfortable in their journey.

Harini Karuna Prakash, a Primary directress and mother of 5 year old Skanda, shares her experience of preparing him before boarding a flight. She went through each step of the airport processes - checking of ID's and tickets, checking in the luggage and getting our boarding passes, security adult checking us and waiting to board the flight. It is lovely to read books and share personal stories of similar experiences as well.

As safety is of utmost priority we do have to establish expected behaviour of having the seatbelt on at required times and also about speaking in low voices and respecting the people around. Depending on the duration of the journey, it is essential to carry activities for engagement so that we don't rely on our screens.

Something as simple (to us) as leaving baggage at the counter can become a moment of struggle. "We spoke to Skanda in advance about parting with the baggage. My son tends to get attached to his belongings and will never let it go. So preparing him that we have to leave the baggage with the airline officials and reassuring him that we will be receiving it once we reach our destination, was very helpful as he knew it was going to happen. Though he asked me whether they would give his bag back, it did not upset him."



Nature Connect - Resources to Explore

Anju Asokan

Children arrive into human habitats that exist amidst the glory of nature, nestled in an envelope of biodiverse organisms. This series seeks to bring the reader closer to nature with a line up of resources that educate and entertain.

Nature Conservation Foundation

The love for our feathered friends can be a great gateway for children to be enamoured with nature. The Nature Conservation Foundation store has an array of resources to support this journey. 'What's that Bird?' is a set of 40 flashcards, available in multiple Indian languages, on 40 common birds of India with a photograph of the bird and tidbits of it on the flipside. They also have bilingual illustrious pocket guides for different regions that are designed for beginners.

Among other things, look out for posters of different local birds around us, collections of short essays, early bird gift packs, activity books, handbooks for educators, story books for children and nature guides in varied formats; something for everyone! These come with instructional videos for ideas on how they are to be used.

Priyanka Siva has been using the bird flashcards with her toddler since she was around 9 months old. The design of the cards are thick, sturdy, and a good size, which is perfect to handle from early on. The accuracy of the photographs are significant in identifying and making the connection between the birds in the cards and the outside world. *"We can see that we will be using it for many years to come as there is more to offer at the back of the card when my daughter seeks more information."*



When outdoors, Priyanka also uses their pocket guides (suitable for elementary children/parents) often as they are easy to carry and are extremely useful reference for common birds of the region.

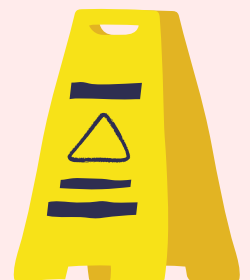
These are priced from Rs 35 to Rs 1500. You can shop them on <https://ncf-store.zohocommerce.in/>

Children and Safety

Dr Chetan Ginigeri, Consultant Pediatrics & Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of Aster Hospital, shares tools to be equipped with by different parties for safeguarding children.

Top Tips To Ensure Your Child Stays Safe In School

- 1. Slipping/Falling:** Toilets/other spaces with water should be wiped and mopped every few minutes so that the floor does not get slippery.
- 2. Observe the Signs:** Help children to observe the signs of 'Caution', 'Wet floor', 'Work in Progress', 'Go Slow'. You can practice at home and also point these in malls, airports and railway stations.
- 3. Exercise Caution with Stairs:** Show children to hold handrails while moving up and down the stairs. Advise against running.
- 4. Safety on School Bus:** Instruct your child to get on or off a school bus only when it has stopped moving. Also, ask them to exercise caution when it comes to waving out from the bus windows.
- 5. Accident Alert:** Always provide them with a clean handkerchief and teach them to immediately inform the authorities if they are hurt. If no one is around, instruct them to wash the wound with clean water and cover it with a clean handkerchief. Ask them to make a mental note of how they got injured to understand if they need a tetanus injection.
- 6. Safety From Furniture:** Strictly advise against playing with doors and windows and jumping on the chairs or benches.
- 7. Playground Safety:** Advise against mishandling playground equipment such as swings, crowbars, etc. If you find anything unsafe such as rusted play equipment, immediately inform the authorities to get it repaired on priority. Schools should install proper shock absorbents such as sand or foam-filled landing surfaces below slides and swings.



It is important to mention here that injuries do happen. Insist on taking precautions and let children enjoy their childhood!

Contact Dr Chetan at drchetanmd@yahoo.com

Good Reads – Books for Under Three

Nithya Ramachandran

Books are an essential and beautiful inclusion in any home and community. This series brings to you book suggestions that come highly recommended for infants (below 1 year) and toddlers (1 to 3 years).

'One Little Baby' by Richard Dungowrth and Jane Massey is published by Puffin Books. The storyline itself is a relatable depiction of a child's everyday routine. From waking up in the morning to playing, eating, and finally going to bed, the book covers all the familiar activities that a young child goes through. What sets this book apart is its ability to address both the joyful and challenging moments of a child's day. For instance, it doesn't shy away from depicting difficult emotions like missing mom or falling down and getting hurt. However, it offers comfort by showing a reassuring solution—a cuddle.

The writing is rhythmic and lyrical, almost song-like, making it a joy to read aloud. The author's use of repetition and rhyme creates a soothing and engaging experience for young listeners. The illustrations are simple and sweet, perfectly suited to the young baby. Each page is filled with vibrant yet soft colors that create a warm and inviting atmosphere.

The moments depicted in the illustrations, such as the child spilling food all over themselves, are not only relatable but also inject a sense of humour into the narrative. The illustrations where the child is playing in the park or splashing around in the bath are especially delightful, eliciting a sense of joy and fun that translates seamlessly from the page to the reader. These visuals make the experiences of the little baby feel vivid and real, allowing young readers to see themselves in the story.

**The writer is an Early Years Educator and an infant mother

'One Little Baby' by Richard Dungowrth and Jane Massey is available for purchase on Amazon

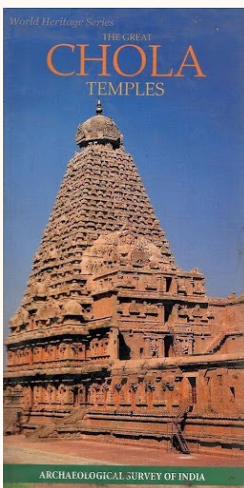


Bitten by the History Bug

India is home to innumerable heritage sites that have stood the test of time. This series highlights some of these grand marvels that tell stories of human life and work with some references that children can reach to on visiting these places.

The Great Chola Temples

The Cholas established a powerful monarchy in the 9th CE at Thanjavur and in its surroundings. The Great Living Chola Temples were built by kings of the Chola Empire, which stretched over all of south India and the neighbouring islands. The site includes three great temples: the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur, the Brihadisvara Temple at Gangaikondacholisvaram and the Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram. The temples testify to the brilliant achievements of the Chola in architecture, sculpture, painting and bronze casting at the same time encapsulating a very distinctive period of Tamil culture.



While there are multiple literature offering extensive insight into the Cholas, '**ASI World Heritage Series; The Great Chola Temples**' by **C Sivaramamurti** is a concise 98 page guide that provides an introduction to the history and architecture of those times, illustrated with over 80 evocative photographs as well as detailed site plans and sketches. It is sure to augment the experience of soaking in this architectural beauty, both before and after the visit and more so during the visit as we will be able to find these stories in murals and carvings and scriptures.



Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/250/>

<https://www.exoticindiaart.com/book/details/world-heritage-series-great-chola-temples-ihg043/>

Demystifying Montessori Materials

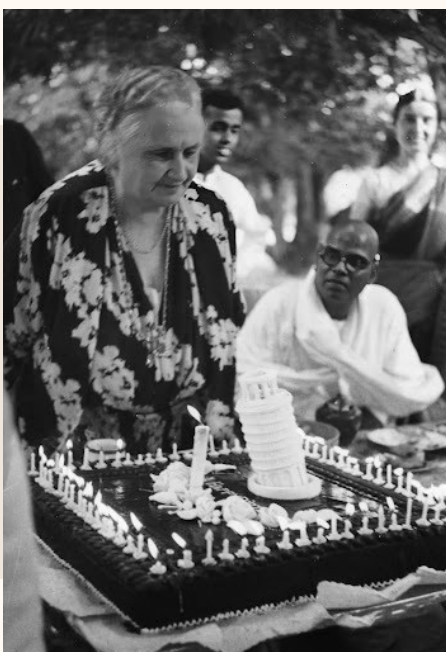
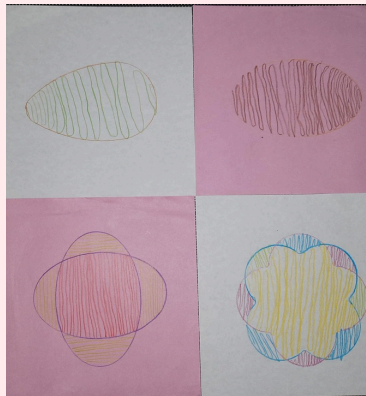
Vidhya Ramalingam

A Montessori classroom offers a wide range of developmental aids whose aims are more than what meets the eye. This series brings to light why some materials are set up and how they are used by the children in a Primary Montessori community (3-6 years).

Metal Insets

Helping children write is not as cumbersome as one might think if they are prepared for it at every opportunity. With most of the activities in the environment, children are prepared to strengthen their finger muscles and wrists, indirectly preparing them for writing. Metal insets serve as a direct preparation for writing as children begin to practice with writing implements such as colour pencils. The material consists of 10 different geometric shapes with matching frames made of metal. To begin working with this, children are shown how to hold the pencil. Then, they carefully trace the outline of one of the shapes with a colour pencil. With another colour, they slowly fill it in with unbroken lines by moving the pencil from bottom to top and top to bottom. This is done with a continuous wrist movement from left to right of the outline.

Here, the challenge is to appropriately hold the pencil and fill the shape with controlled movements to keep the lines within the boundaries. The clockwise and the anticlockwise movements of the wrist are essential to write and this practice is enriched while filling the shape. It also prepares the child for writing and reading from left to right. Further extension of this activity leads to making use of many different insets to form complex patterns and filling them in with different colours, which brings out their creativity.



Happy 154th Birthday!

"We must see the child from the point of the future man. We must understand that it is a human right that the child should grow in the right way because the man will grow from the child in a few years. This man must have the rights of every citizen."

Maria Montessori, The 1946 London Lectures, p. 140



Understanding the Adolescent

Chaithanya Yalamanchili

This segment aims to throw light on the needs of adolescents as they integrate academics with purposeful work and prepare to become contributing citizens who are self-confident and possess skills needed to thrive in society.

Adolescent: A Social Newborn

As the child enters adolescence, we witness the human being at a new stage of development. While puberty marks the physical transformation, a new being who is ready to be a part of the society is born. Dr. Montessori refers to adolescents at this stage as the social newborn. While the elementary child adapts to the universe he/she is born into, the adolescent starts building meaningful relationships with the society by being a part of it. All the academic work undertaken by them until the elementary stage becomes meaningful in terms of becoming an adult. They are transitioning from being a child in the family to an adult in the society.

The integral element of any human society is work. Work binds human beings together and helps sustain societies. Adolescents are eager explorers of human society and are keen on taking part in it. Through real adult work, the adolescent begins to understand the functioning of human societies and becomes a part of it. This work of the adolescent will have a positive impact on the community which he/she is becoming a part of. Through such work, the adolescents learn to live for others and sacrifice for others. Such experiences prepare them for adulthood where they choose a relationship with the society and contribute to it.



The Erdkinder provides the adolescent with a miniature model for the adolescents to practice and experience human society. Through interdependent relationships based on work, adolescents sustain the community and contribute towards the well-being of the members of the community. A variety of experience with real adult work allows them to adapt to different working conditions and lifestyles. They learn to accustom themselves to a variety of roles in their miniature society which prepares them to adapt to the changing needs of the society.

Chaithanya Yalamanchili heads the Erdkinder program at Pragnya Montessori School, Hyderabad. He holds an AMI diploma in elementary education and Adolescent studies. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering and a masters degree in Mathematics.

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



**All India
Distributors of
IMF
Publications**

Plot# - 125, Vignarajapuram
2nd Main Road, Vengaiwasal,
Chennai - 600 078

98416 89808 /
coralgroups@outlook.com

www.montessori-india.org/store

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 queries to help us in this journey.

How does an adult transform himself from constantly interfering to supporting the child? Neelima Mhaskar, AMI Primary Trainer

The child from birth is driven by Nature to accomplish things on his own. He mostly knows what he needs to be independent, for which he needs to actively engage with the environment around him. The aim of the work he does is very different from that of an adult. Adult's work is mostly utilitarian, but the child works to coordinate his movements, construct his language, and his personality. Going up the stairs multiple times, folding/unfolding the same cloth repeatedly is what the child is pushed from within to do.



So we need to be aware of the child's developmental powers and potential. Once we understand that a young child knows what he needs, we will stop being the intervening adult and understand the need to assist the child in his development.

We have to observe the child and see if he is manifesting any tendencies for exploration, repetition, exactness or is pushed from within to coordinate his movements. This knowledge will enable us to restrain ourselves and respond to the child rather than react to a situation.

When the child is doing something we should not intervene unless and until the child is harming himself, another child/living being or being disrespectful to the environment. There is no need to intervene if our assistance is not needed. The child will somehow convey to us if he needs our help. Therefore the transformation of an adult will happen only if one understands the needs of the child and the tasks that Nature has assigned him to accomplish within a framework of time.

Neelima Mhaskar, is the Director of Training at the Vivek High Montessori Institute, Chandigarh. She has over 30 years of experience in the field of Montessori Education. She is also part of the faculty for the Diploma Course in Beijing and Taipei; and has conducted several Assistant/Orientation courses in India, China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

REGISTRATION OPEN!
For August 2024

Sir Ratan Tata Institute
Affiliated to
Association Montessori Internationale (AMI),
Netherlands
Offers

Internationally Recognized Montessori Teacher Training Programme

"We, as adults, must play a new role - we must understand that instead of helping the child we only hinder him if we try to mould him directly."
-Maria Montessori

For Details Contact
Sir Ratan Tata Institute (Annexe)
35, Hughes Road, Mumbai- 400 007
Tel: 9619964115 / 9867260977
7709931040 / 9867789399 / 66646847

www.montessori-mumbai.org
zarinnalwa@gmail.com

Supraja
Montessori Study Centre
A Unit of Abexa Trust

AMI 3-6 Diploma Course
from August 19, 2024 to April 11, 2025

8:45 AM to 3:15 PM

Venue
Supraja Montessori Study Centre
321, Nehru Nagar, 3rd Main Road,
Kottivakkam, Chennai 600096

Phone: +91 73053 01643
www.suprajamontessori.org

Register Now!

MTRT
The Montessori Training and Research Trust

AMI

"The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six"
~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Primary Montessori Diploma

Internationally Recognised Diploma from AMI, Netherlands that will enable you to work with children between ages 3 to 6 years.

COURSE DETAILS

- August 20th 2024 to April 2025
- Course offered in English
- Mon-Fri, 8:45 AM to 3:15 PM
- Location: MTRT, Jeedimetla, HYD

MORE INFORMATION

- +91-8297263546
- www.montessorihyderabad.org
- info@montessorihyderabad.org
- @mtrt-ami-montessori-training-institute-hyderabad
- @mtrt_ami_hyd

REGISTER NOW

**Sponsorship available for this course*

VIVEK HIGH MONTESSORI INSTITUTE
Affiliated to Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) The Netherlands
Become an Internationally Certified Educator
Bhagwant Singh Charitable Trust Brings
The First and Only
AMI Montessori Training Centre in North India

VHMI
Vivek High Montessori Institute

Empowering Minds, Nurturing Futures

AMI Primary Diploma Course (3 - 6 year olds)
May 2024 to January 2026

Ms. Neelima Mhaskar
Director of Training

Ms. Dipa Sreekumar
Co-Trainer

AMI Elementary Diploma Course (6 - 12 year olds)
March 2024 to April 2026

Mentored by
Ms. Ann Dunne
Elementary Trainer & Educational Consultant

Ms. Prabha Narayanan
Director of Training

Ms. Kamini Kapur
Co-Director of Training

Ms. Meenu Sahi, Founder and Executive Director, VHMI
E-mail: vhmi@vivekhighschool.edu.in

KODAIKANAL AMI CENTRE
FOR MONTESSORI STUDIES

Kodaikanal AMI Centre for Montessori Studies

Take the AMI Adolescent Diploma!

Follow in Montessori's footsteps..

For all courses: www.kodaikanalamicentre.com

REGISTRATION OPEN

AMI ORIENTATION COURSE
CHILDREN'S HOUSE (3-6)
Online Format

By
Anahita Gandhi
AMI 3-6 Trainers

Dates: 7th October to 25th October 2024. (Mon-Fri)
Timings : 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

This course is an introduction to the developmental characteristics and needs of children ages 3-6. It supports understanding of this developmental stage for parents, caregivers, school staff, or any individual seeking general knowledge about Montessori developmental theory and education.

OFFERED BY MONTESSORI INSTITUTE OF BANGALORE

For Registration contact
Email : course@montessoribangalore.org
website : www.montessoribangalore.org
Phone:08043028414/9972866443



EVENTS 2024-'25

Sat 20th July 2024	Talk	Montessori Education - Its relevance today	Online
Thu 31 August 2024	Talk	The Significance of the Hand in Education	Online
Thu 12 September 2024	Talk	Path to Self Expression- Role of Language in Development	Onsite - To be confirmed in respective cities
Sat 23 November 2024	Talk	Transitions in Montessori and beyond	Online
Sat 7 December 2024	Talk	Developing Executive functions in Montessori Environment	Online
Thu 23 January 2025	Talk	Setting Boundaries - Road to Self Discipline (3-6 topic)	Onsite - To be confirmed in respective cities
Sat 22 February 2025	Talk	A Day in a Montessori Environment	Online

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

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

Friend of IMF | Gold card 5 years validity - ₹4500

Donor benefits: Special access to donor's section on the IMF website; 40 issues of the newsletter; 5 issues of the annual journal; Special donor pass to IMF events

8248010258

info@montessori-india.org

BECOME AN IMF FLAGSHIP SCHOOL!

*Spread the Montessori philosophy
Support AMI in its Bold Goal initiative
Help increase AMI trained educators in our country!*

Here's what you can do:

Publicise IMF and the AMI training centres on your websites/social media
Encourage your community to participate in all IMF events

Here's how we can help:

School listing on the IMF website
Free entry to all IMF talks for all parents and staff
Job listings in the Touch Board and website
...and so much more!

At Rs. 4500 per year*

Visit www.montessori-india.org or contact the School Connect Team at imfschoolconnect@gmail.com for more details

**each branch/campus of a school*

THE TOUCH BOARD TEAM

Editorial Team

Roopa Sundar
Ekta Kanal

Reporting Team

Aditi Ganesh | Meera Ghelani
Kavneet Chadha | Vidhya Ramalingam

Layout Design

Anju Asokan

Social Media Coordinator

Tarunya Gouthaman

Trustees

Shirley Madhavan Kutty | Kamini Sundaram | Zarin Malva | Sharan Sirur | Kapil Viswanathan
Rukmini Ramachandran | Umashankar Kenche | Pavan Goyal | Nishant Gupta

Do send us a article that you wish to share, to thetouchboard@gmail.com

Reach the School Connect team at imfschoolconnect@gmail.com