

Exploration in Collaboration

Children analysing the structure and components of sentences

Photo Courtesy - Harmony Montessori



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.

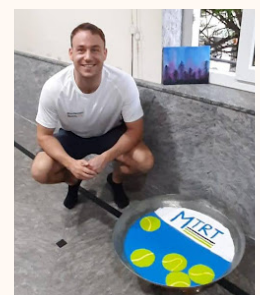
City Events

Workshop - 'Montessori Sports'

Vidushi Govil - Anthea Montessori House of Children | Hyderabad

It was refreshing to hear a sports professional discuss key Montessori principles, such as mixed-age groups, freedom within limits, freedom of choice and apply them to the integration of sports and education. In the workshop organized by MTRT on October 1, 2024, Jip Bartels shared valuable anecdotes, illustrating how sports goes beyond physical fitness—it can be a tool for academic learning and essential life skills. Sports, often seen as adult entertainment, serve as a pathway for children to explore and reach their full potential.

Montessori sports instructors do not focus on specialization in one area but guide children based on their developmental needs, fostering holistic growth rather than striving for mastery in a single sport. As a parent, it is thought-provoking to reflect on the opportunities we provide for sports. Often, we either offer no exposure or limit children to one sport. This approach restricts their freedom to explore and learn. Viewing sports as an essential tool for holistic development is a new perspective, offering deeper insights into supporting the overall growth and well-being of children.



A key takeaway was the reminder that just as Montessori guides are generalists who support children in various aspects of their learning, the same philosophy applies to sports.

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AMI Primary Orientation Course

Aditi Ganesh | Chennai

The orientation course that focuses on introducing the 3-6 year old child and ideas of Montessori education surrounding it, began on August 17, 2024 with 30 eager participants at Supraja Montessori Study Center. Sona Ramaswamy began trusting the process and found great joy from listening to analogies and stories that the trainers shared from their time of working with children. *"The kind of dignity that lines the work of an adult with the child is something wondrous"*, she adds. The participants were able to view the working of a Montessori environment where they witnessed all the principles and the work of the child unfold.



AMI Primary Trainer Hemalatha Rangarajan inaugurating the course that is spread across 8 Saturdays making it a convenient option for many working professionals



AMI Montessori Core Principles Certificate Course

Vidhya Ramalingam | Hyderabad

The first ever Montessori Core Principles course was conducted in India between the months of September and October, 2024 by MTRT. Nearly 50 members from across the country participated in this blended course which captured the fundamental Montessori principles that apply universally across developmental stages from infancy to adulthood.



"The first hand experience of the prepared environments really helped to bring alive the core principles. I'm deeply inspired by the idea that the cosmic purpose lies in how we can apply these principles for the betterment of children and society as a whole" - Nnacesay Marenah

Montessori Sports Fundamental Course

Team MTRT | Hyderabad

"Just like writing involves lines and curves, sport is all about different types of movements and there is so much a Montessori guide can do in a classroom to help children work on different types of movements." - Srinija Yattapu

MTRT conducted the course in a hybrid model that was offered for the first time in India. The course was offered by Jip Bartels, Montessori sports coach from Amsterdam. The course began in June 2024 in online sessions and came to a closure in October with three days of discussions and practical sessions. There were about 33 participants from all over India. Fazeel Rahim, the grandson of Coach Syed Abdul Rahim, the football coach of India, on whose life the Hindi movie Maidan is made, was invited for the inauguration of the onsite component of the programme. Shruti Agarwal was truly impressed by the simple approach with which we can integrate these ideas in the Montessori environments and daily lives.



"The practical work that we did and the way we thought and curated the sports activities ourselves has helped all the participants train themselves to think and innovate the activities by internalising the Montessori principles." - Shruti Agarwal

Hearty Congratulations!

Dipa Sreekumar is now an AMI Primary (3-6 years) Trainer!

Dipa is an Economics graduate from Delhi University who stumbled upon Montessori. She is currently part of the Primary Diploma Course Training Team at Montessori Training and Research Trust, Hyderabad and at Vivek High Montessori Institute, Chandigarh. She has been an External and National examiner for Chennai, Bangalore, China and Vietnam courses.



IMF Event: IMF Volunteers Meeting

Aditi Ganesh | Chennai

On October 5, 2024, volunteers and trustees of the Indian Montessori Foundation from various cities gathered at Supraja Montessori Study Centre for an engaging and collaborative meeting. Each team under IMF working on newsletter, annual journal, social media and others updated on their activities, challenges encountered, and fixing strategies for smooth and effective working in the future. The meeting concluded on a positive note, reinforcing the importance of working together towards mutual goals.



A highlight of the meeting was the discussion about the major conference planned for the year 2026, details of which will be covered in our upcoming issues.

Books in the IMF Corner!

In the quest to bring Montessori philosophy to communities and training centres, the Indian Montessori Foundation has on sale books, didactic language material and furniture that aids independence in young children. AMI students from across the country share how Montessori books have played a role in their journey of learning.

Shwetha Agarwal pursuing the AMI Primary Diploma Summer Course

"We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit. It is the teachers joy to welcome the manifestations of the spirit answering her faith. Here is the child as he should be: the worker who never tries, the calm child, who seeks the maximum of effort, who tries to help the weak, while knowing how to respect the independence of others, in reality, the true child."

- Maria Montessori, Education for a New World, Page 69

I read this book, **Education for a New World**, during my course and witnessed the exact thing. One day in my school a 2.7 year old boy helped a 16 months old child to put on his sandals. The elder one stopped with some help and allowed the younger one to fasten the velcro on his sandals. Once the elder one saw the younger one do that successfully, without saying a single word they both ran to play in to their group of peers. I was the joyful adult standing at a distance and watching this unfold.

All our books can be purchased at events organized by the IMF in your city or at <https://montessori-india.org/store/>. **Education for a New World is priced at Rs. 360**



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 -Maria Montessori

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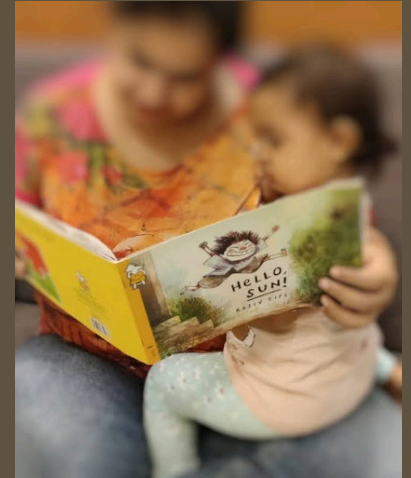
Good Reads – Books for Under Three

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).

‘Hello, Sun’ by Rajiv Eipe has been illustrated with a gentleness that perfectly captures the essence of the young child who explores the natural world around them. The illustrations are rich in detail and inviting for young readers to discover new elements with every reading. The vibrant yet intricate illustrations encourage conversations and engagement from the young child. The images beautifully enhance the little boy’s curiosity while exploring nature, yet the respectful way in which he interacts with each tiny creature around him. Adults are sure to feel nostalgic of their childhood while reading this aloud to their little ones.

Rajiv Eipe achieves a lot with a little. The minimal text in each page complements the illustration and makes the book perfect for a read aloud. The rhythmic language used is delightful for the young child to listen and repeat. My child was thrilled by the different bird calls in the story, which helped her identify and connect with these birds during our daily walks. The clever depiction of how the boy interacts with each creature adds a layer of interest, keeping the book engaging and dynamic.



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

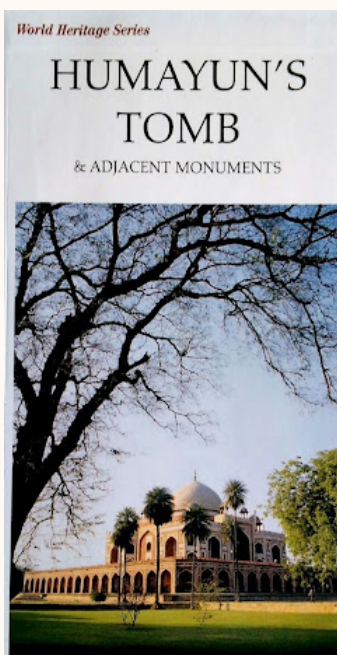
Bitten by the History Bug

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.

Humayun’s Tomb

Humayun’s Tomb, Delhi is the first of the grand dynastic mausoleums that were to become synonyms of Mughal architecture with the architectural style reaching its zenith 80 years later at the later Taj Mahal. Humayun’s Tomb was built in the 1560’s, initiated by wife Haji Begum and with the patronage of Humayun’s son, the great Emperor Akbar. Persian and Indian craftsmen worked together to build the garden-tomb, far grander than any tomb built before in the Islamic world. The sheer vastness and symmetry of the structure is what stuns visitors at first sight.

As one of the important buildings the Mughals erected in India, Humayun’s Tomb introduced purely Persian features to the subcontinent, but it also drew several elements from the land it was built in. The red sandstone and white marble, for instance, was a common feature of 14th century architecture of the Delhi Sultanate.



‘ASI World Heritage Series; Humayun’s Tomb’

by S.A.A. Naqvi is the second in a series of travel guides with the aim of introducing the visitor to the World Heritage Monuments in India. Extensive historical research and a focus on architectural details make this book an invaluable companion for anyone wishing to explore Emperor Humayun’s mausoleum and its environs. Apart from focussing on the many monuments within the Humayun’s Tomb Complex, there is also a brief section on the Pirana Qila, believed to be the site of the oldest settlement in Delhi. Specially commissioned photographs, architectural illustrations and easy to follow site maps also make the book a visual delight.



Source

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/232/>

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).

Pouring – One to many unequal containers

Pouring is a chore that all of us do in our everyday life. So we can expect that children will be familiar with this activity without ever having formally demonstrated to them. For instance, pouring a glass of water. Though this may seem simple to adults, for children, this is a skill by itself that they are still developing which requires controlled movements and logical thinking.

The activity of pouring water from one container to 3 containers of different sizes involves various steps which demands concentration and coordinated movements. Lifting the larger container with water, bringing it over the first empty container, tilting it slightly and pouring the water steadily into the center of the empty container. Stop pouring once it reaches the mark and repeating the same for the other containers.

Before arriving at this activity, children must have practiced pouring from one container to another using grains and water. These activities will help them concentrate and develop the basic technique of pouring. Here the added challenge is that, all containers are of unequal sizes which can hold different quantities of water and need to be poured accordingly. Children need to analyse and decide when to stop pouring so that it does not overflow. In case of any spills, they clean them up with a napkin and get the material ready for the next child which brings in them the sense of care and responsibility. When they master this skill of controlled pouring, they confidently apply this in their everyday life which gives them an additional layer of independence.



Prepared Social Experiences

Kavneet Chadha & 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.

A scenario that many of us have encountered in shopping spaces is young children having meltdowns. Many of these spaces offer such a wide variety of choices and are many times designed to attract children. It takes a lot of self-control and awareness in young children to reign in temptations and they have to be supported and handheld in this journey.

Mounika Reddy, mother of 3-year-old Anika, is a strong believer in preparation. They usually go to supermarkets in malls and have many things that are attractive like toys, candies, rides, ultra processed food etc. She usually prepares Anika to help navigate emotional meltdowns. *"The previous night or as soon as we plan, we have a conversation about where we are going, why we are going, and what she can do over there."* It is a lovely practice to create a shopping list along with the child and reiterate that you will be buying only what is on the list. As the children gain experience, they can be involved in writing these lists.



Anika choosing many balls while her mother guides her to choose one from it

Every opportunity can also be taken to offer choices. *"Today I have to buy a gift for your friend's birthday party. Do you want to join me or stay with your dad and play?"* If Anika chooses to shop, then Mounika asks her to either think of one thing or pick one thing from the store for herself. *"This conversation will be repeated while we are going to the shop as this helps her with preparing her mind to get only one thing."*

The trickiest part as a parent is handling emotional outbursts in such spaces. We have to exude confidence and calmness and help in regulating emotions as children experience disappointments. We have to be most respectful, kind, empathic but also firm. When there are cries, wanting two or more things, Anika would be carried and comforted and if need be, taken outside the shop. *"I know you liked many things, but we can buy only one at a time. You can keep in mind the other one you want for next time."* Giving her a minute or two usually helps to settle down.



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.

The Erdkinder Community: A Model for Adolescent Development

The Erdkinder community serves as a prepared social environment specifically designed for the third plane of development. At this stage of life, preparation is contextualized within society, allowing adolescents to engage in real-life experiences that have natural consequences. This community provides invaluable life experiences, equipping young individuals for adult life.

In this unique setting, adolescents undertake various roles that are crucial for the sustenance of the community. Through activities centered around Production and Exchange, they learn to manage resources effectively, gaining practical experience in budgeting, planning, and collaboration. For example, adolescents within the Erdkinder community rotate through various kitchen duties, actively participating in the planning, budgeting, recipe development, cooking, and cleaning processes. These responsibilities cultivate a sense of accountability, as the outcomes of their efforts directly impact the community. Through these activities, they learn the significance of division of labour, understanding that each individual's contributions are essential for the community's sustenance. This experience also fosters an appreciation for the necessity of occasionally prioritizing the collective needs over personal preferences, thereby reinforcing the values of collaboration and shared responsibility.

Weekly community meetings serve as a vital platform for discussion and decision-making, reinforcing democratic principles and ensuring that every voice is valued. During these meetings, adolescents present budgets and financial reports, thereby enhancing their grasp of responsibility and transparency within the community. They also engage in planning for the upcoming week and resolving any challenges that arise within the community. Additionally, adults within the community participate in these meetings, collaborating with adolescents to make informed decisions regarding work and study.

The Erdkinder community already embodies essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and leadership. These competencies are woven into the fabric of the community, preparing adolescents to navigate the complexities of adult life. By fostering these skills, the Erdkinder environment equips young people with the tools they need to face future challenges effectively. In summary, the Erdkinder community not only cultivates essential life skills but also strengthens social bonds, creating a rich and practical learning experience for its members. This model serves as a promising approach to adolescent education, preparing young individuals for success in both their personal and professional lives.

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 master's 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.

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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.



What are the ways to help the reasoning mind of an elementary child at home?

Madhavi Gaddam, AMI Elementary Trainer

A parent can spend as much quality time as possible with the child. They can tell stories of truth. They can eat, do house chores and read along with children. They can show a skill that they have like music, painting, etc. They can discuss with the child over a topic on which he or she is interested. They can take the child to different places and tell stories/history related to those places and things. They need to be fair, honest and trustworthy.

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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. Contact Dr Chetan at drchetanmd@yahoo.com.

Safety of Children during the Indian Festive Season

The Indian festive season brings joy, celebration, and family bonding, but it also comes with specific safety risks for children. As an acute care pediatrician, I urge parents to be mindful of these hazards while ensuring a fun and safe environment for their children.

Firstly, firecrackers are a significant part of Diwali celebrations, but they pose severe risks like burns and eye injuries. It's essential to ensure children are always supervised, use fireworks in open areas, and maintain a safe distance. Opt for sparklers or safer alternatives.

Festivals also mean increased traffic and crowded spaces. Whether it's during Dussehra or Ganesh Chaturthi processions, ensure your child is wearing brightly colored clothes to remain visible and avoid bustling areas that can overwhelm or harm them.

Food is another aspect of festive joy, but overeating or consuming unsafe street food can lead to digestive issues. Stick to home-cooked meals as much as possible and avoid excess sweets to prevent indigestion or food poisoning.

Finally, always supervise children around decorative lights and lamps to avoid electrical accidents or fire hazards. Being proactive can ensure your child enjoys the festivals safely and happily.





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	Understanding Adolescents - Jenny Hoglund	Onsite - Chennai
Thu 12 September 2024	Talk	Path to Self Expression- Role of Language in Development Speaker - Teenaz Reporter	Onsite - Hyderabad
Thu 12 September 2024	Talk	Path to Self Expression- Role of Language in Development Speaker - Anahita Gandhi	Onsite - Bangalore
Thu 19 September 2024	Talk	Path to Self Expression- Role of Language in Development Speaker - Zarin Malva	Onsite - Mumbai
Sat 23 November 2024	Talk	Transitions in Montessori and Beyond	Online
Thu 5 December 2024	Workshop	AMI Students Orientation Present work of IMF	Online
Thu 23 January 2025	Talk	Setting Boundaries - Road to Self Discipline (3-6 topic) Speaker - Kavya C	Onsite - Bangalore
Thu 23 January 2025	Talk	Setting Boundaries - Road to Self Discipline (3-6 topic) Speaker - Madhavi Latha	Onsite - Hyderabad
Thu 23 January 2025	Talk	Setting Boundaries - Road to Self Discipline (3-6 topic) Speaker - Hemalatha Rangarajan	Onsite - Chennai
Thu 23 January 2025	Talk	Setting Boundaries - Road to Self Discipline (3-6 topic) Speaker - Suneeta M	Onsite - Mumbai
Sat 22 February 2025	Talk	A Day in a Montessori Environment	Online

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