

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 practicing the skill of fastening and unfastening a zipper



Photo Courtesy - RTI Montessori School

Workshop - 'The Art of Observation; Seeing is Believing'

Kavneet Chadha | Bangalore/Online



Photo Courtesy - Anugraha Montessori

Montessori Institute of Bangalore (MIB) organised a 4 day online workshop in the first week of July. It was facilitated by Karen Pearce, Director of Pedagogy at The Montessori Place in UK with 36 years of Children's House experience. She took the participants through an observation framework, a code system that enables observations to be gathered efficiently and effectively, the art of producing developmental work curves and analysis of data as an instrument to create bespoke programmes of work.

For Kushalatha Jogi, who has been working in Mysore, the workshop offered much practical insights with in depth details of the stages leading to normalization. "Observation is what truly helps the adult to understand the needs and offer the child challenges and experiences that lead him to the highest stage of concentration."

"I was left with a deeper understanding of how to observe children meaningfully and with intention." - Jenifer A J T

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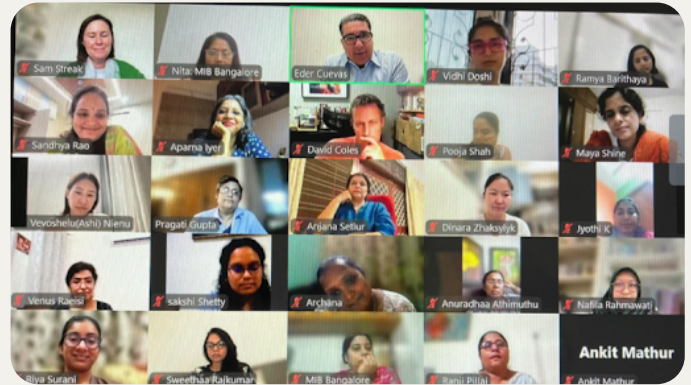
Indian Montessori Foundation IMF

AMI Administrators Course

Kavneet Chadha | Bangalore/Online

AMI Administrator Course Trainer Eder Cuevas facilitated MIB's second Administrators Course, now known as the Montessori School Leadership Course. The 12 day course that began on July 3, focused on strategic planning, staff development, school management and effective communication. *"Preparing the environment isn't only about materials - it's about the readiness of adults to guide."* Anjana Setlur of Nivriti School, Bangalore saw parallels drawn between a leader and a Montessori guide.

Just like the guide facilitates the development of children in a prepared environment, a leader must create a nurturing work environment for his/her team to foster growth, collaboration and creativity. Anuradhaa Athimuthu further adds that she understood how essential it is to communicate with transparency and authenticity. *"True leadership in a Montessori environment means gaining the trust of the community while staying non-judgemental."*



"The course went beyond administration - it was about leading from within, staying rooted in Montessori philosophy, and understanding the ecosystem that surrounds the child" - Anuradhaa Athimuthu - Founder Partner of Cambridge Montessori Preschool, Chennai

IMF Talk - 'Montessori Education - An Aid to Life'

Vidhya Ramalingam | Online

To start the academic year on a reflective note, the first IMF talk focused on the topic of education as an aid to life. The talk attended by more than 250 participants was held on July 19, 2025 and led by AMI Primary Trainer Tania Stewart and AMI Primary Associate Trainer Helen Mohan Elias.



Both the speakers touched upon the fundamental principles of Montessori education and how they come to life in the classroom setting

They highlighted how a well-prepared environment, under the guidance of a trained adult, enables the children to explore freedom, make meaningful choices and work independently, thus, gradually helping them develop self-discipline, responsibility and love for learning. The talk was a gentle nudge towards remembering that every adult involved in the lives of children holds the responsibility to support their natural development with mindfulness, respect and purpose.



The 155th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Maria Montessori!

One hundred and fifty five years ago, a visionary was born. This August 31st, we celebrate her legacy, her contributions that still influence our work with children and more than ever her continued wonder about the universal child.

"Even though I have studied this question for a long time, I am continually surprised. I understand more and more how advanced and able small children can be." - Maria Montessori, The 1946 London Lectures, Page 121

Maria Montessori, Circa 1940, Holding Baby (Source: AMI archives)



Our conference theme Saparya originates from a Sanskrit term which means to serve. To be sensitive to the needs of others - this is the foundation of a compassionate and harmonious community. The Montessori environment fosters this spirit. While adults attentively serve the child's potential, the children develop an awareness of the needs of others and serve one another.



Saparya the 7th National Montessori Conference
 Dates - 23 & 24 January. 2025
 Venue: Hotel Sahara Star
 Location: Chhatrapati Shivaji International. 70-C,
 Nehru Rd, Navpada, Airport Area, Vile Parle,
 Mumbai, Maharashtra 400047, India



Link to register: <https://imfevents.in/registrations/>

Demystifying Montessori Materials

Roopa Sundar

'What do toddlers do in school?' is a question that always comes up! Montessori Guides bring to light why some materials are set up and how they are used by the children in a Toddler Montessori community (15 months - 2.5 years).



Young children are hungry for words, repeatedly pointing for us to share the names of things around them. In the environment, adults use rich and precise language to feed this absolute attraction to language. A material that caters to this need is the Nomenclature Material, that is classified sets of objects like fruits, flowers, spices, grains, etc. contained within a tray/basket. Children are repeatedly offered the names as they hold, feel and smell them. An extension of this experience also happens in the kitchen as they are involved in food preparation and tasting these during meal times.

With experience, children are also able to follow simple commands of 'Where is the hibiscus? Can you place the frangipani here? Can you give me the jungle flame?' This allows for a lot of association with the object and their names. We continue with this exercise as long as children are interested.

There are also replicas/miniatures of objects; of things that cannot be offered as real, like animals, vehicles and so on. We do eventually move to two dimensional pictures in classified sets. But it comes after much experience with their senses. For example - smelling an apple, feeling it, how it weighs on the hand while carrying it, how much effort it takes to bite into it, how crunchy/mushy and sweet it is, how the skin tastes versus without the skin; all these are experiences that enable the child to create a mental image of an apple along with the sensorial explorations that have accompanied it. And such rich experiences become foundational in cognitive and language development.

Experiencing Montessori

Vidhya Ramalingam

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



Five year old Isha Dakshayani was enrolled in a Montessori school when she was 2 years old. Her mother Sravya Gumedelly says that they enrolled her shortly after the lockdown, during a time when she was still adjusting and showed some difficulties with social interactions. But, within just a few weeks of being in school, they began to see meaningful changes. *"I believe it was the nurturing environment and the teachers' thoughtful approach that made all the difference"* Sravya expresses with gratitude.

For Sravya, one of the biggest lessons from her child's Montessori journey is how it has positively shaped their daily life. She shares that their routines have become more natural and their overall lifestyle has become easier and more meaningful. She thoughtfully says, *"What truly stands out is how the Montessori environment respects children's natural curiosity and helps them build important life skills. These learnings don't stay within the classroom; it continues to show up in how they behave and grow at home, while you're at work, or even while you're traveling."*

In one of the instances when her daughter noticed that two of her friends weren't speaking to each other, she calmly stepped in and gently reminded one of them, *"It's okay to fight, but not at the cost of losing a friend."* In another instance, when a boy in her friend's circle wore nail polish and was laughed at, she stood up for him, saying it was his personal choice and that teasing someone over such things wasn't kind. These moments may seem small, but they reflect something deeper. Whether she's resolving conflicts, standing up for others, or caring for those around her, these actions are shaped by the thoughtful and respectful environment she experiences every day - both at school and at home.

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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.

“There can be no doubt of the fact that a child absorbs an enormous number of impressions from his environment and that external help given to this natural instinct kindles within him a lively enthusiasm. In this way education can be a real help to the natural development of the mind.” - Maria Montessori, The Discovery of the Child, Indian Montessori Foundation, Pg 261

A group of four members decided to work with the decimal operations, to perform division. As the group almost finished the process, they began summarising. One of the members, a 4.11 year old said *“My friend took the dividend and we shared equally. The dividend became 3 quotients.”* She then spent a moment in contemplation and pondered out loud *“We took the quotient away from her dividend tray, is this also subtraction?”* realising that dividing a number by another is the same as repeatedly subtracting and that technically, both are reducers of quantity in different formats.



Photo Courtesy: Da Vinci Montessori School





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What Brought me to Montessori!

Meera Ghelani

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.

A phone call with a mutual friend was the key that since then opened many doors for Ashima

Ashima Sheth has been an Elementary guide for 13 years and founded the Oubaitori Montessori Programs. She was introduced to the world of Montessori through a friend. Post her graduation, a college friend suggested she call her friend, who had done 'some Montessori course'. *"That was my very first exposure to the word she reminisces."* The call was short and inspiring and held words like freedom, life skills and was different from other teacher training courses. *"Even though I didn't do much research, sometimes you just know - this is it!"*

Most of what she encountered was unexpected - the strength of the philosophy, the clarity, purpose and depth in the methodology, the diligence of analysis of movements for the primary class, the simplicity and the intelligence of the materials and encountering such strong practitioners of the approach.

One of her moments of epiphany was while she was doing the Elementary Course with AMI Trainer Ann Dunne. During one of the sessions she had shared her personal story in the class and that made Ashima reflect on the pressure of knowing everything as a teacher. Ann had said that when a child had asked her a question that she didn't know the answer to, she simply said, *"Sorry I don't know."* The child then replied, *"But aren't you the teacher? Aren't you supposed to know?"* To that she replied, *"No. I don't know everything. We can look it up together."* That shifted something very big for me.

When Ashima witnesses how beautifully the purpose of the method meets the needs of the child, she is inspired to do better everyday!



Cradle Song

Sarojini Naidu

From groves of spice,
O'er fields of rice,
Athwart the lotus-stream,
I bring for you,
Aglint with dew
A little lovely dream.

Sweet, shut your eyes,
The wild fire-flies
Dance through the fairy neem;
From the poppy-bole
For you I stole
A little lovely dream.

Dear eyes, good-night,
In golden light
The stars around you gleam;
On you I press
With soft caress
A little lovely dream.

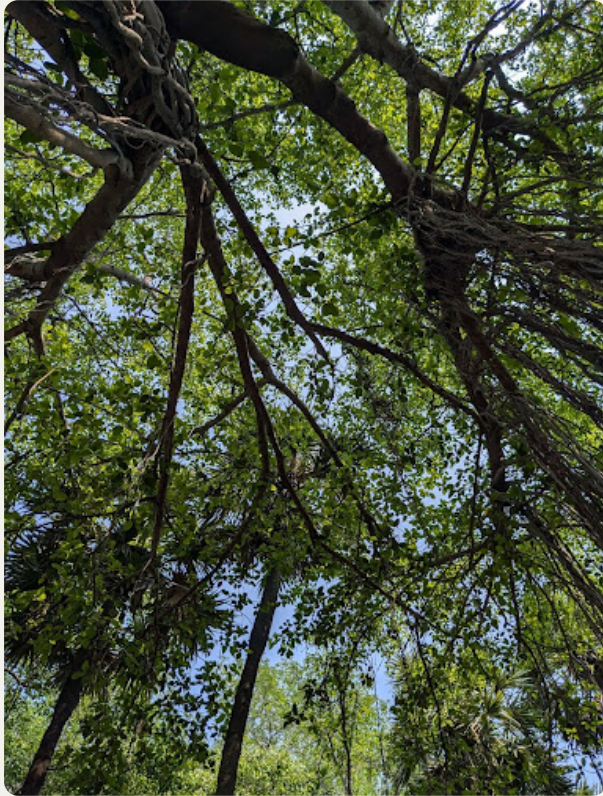


Nature Snap

Nature in all its vastness and minuteness, seen through the eyes of children!

“Banyan and its beauty”

*Hasini Ganesh, 14 years
IIT Madras*



Songs for the Elementary

I am The Earth Song: A song written and arranged by **Glyn Lehmann**

Performed by **Elementary Children of GM International - Mumbai**

[I am the Earth - Song](#)



Lyrics - I Am The Earth

Glyn Lehmann

I am the river flowing
I am the desert dry
I am the four winds blowing
I am the sunset sky

I am the forest breathing
I am the ocean wide
I am the storm clouds gathering
I am the mountain high

I am the Earth
I am the Earth
I am the Earth
I am the Earth

We are the children growing
You are the place we live
We are the seed you're sowing
We are the life you give

I am the Earth
(You're in our hands)
I am the Earth
(We're in your care)
I am the Earth
(Together we stand)

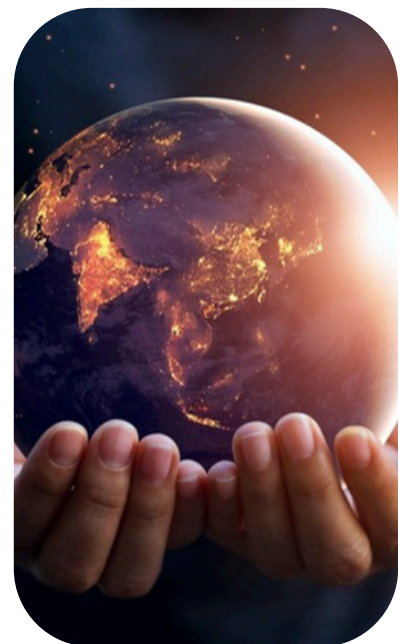
I am the Earth
(This moment in time we share)
We share the future
Stand side by side

I am the Earth
(You're in our hands)
I am the Earth
(We're in your care)
I am the Earth
(Together we stand)
I am the Earth
(This moment in time we share)

I am the river flowing
We are the children growing
I am the desert dry
You are the place we live

I am the four winds blowing
We are the seed you're sowing
I am the sunset sky
We are the life you give

I am the forest breathing
We will be your voice
I am the storm clouds gathering
We will make the choice
One Earth, one people
We'll turn the tide
And in the future
They'll say with pride
One Earth, one people
We turned the tide
Side by side x3





EVENTS 2025-'26

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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