

## 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 looking at pictures of animals



## Workshop - "Touchpoints: Moments of Impact in the Casa Community"

Swathi Raghav I Chennai/Online



*"Overall, the workshop was very refreshing and informative and covered the practical aspects of many theoretical principles of Montessori education," Vidhyalakshmi, Primary Guide*

The Training Team at Supraja Montessori Study Centre began with how Montessori in the age of doubt was able to build faith in the children. The participants (who were largely Montessori teachers) were then encouraged on a journey from doubt to faith by attaching to the environment rather than the children. The discussion then moved onto the child's work and the teacher's observation and record keeping that helps identify a pattern that reveals the true interests of each child. The significance of rules and the importance of consistency in following all the rules was also highlighted. A lot of time was devoted to questions that arose from real time classroom situations.

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## AMI Montessori Sports Course

Mary Pauleena Bandila | Hyderabad

Organised by MTRT, the blended course (online & onsite sessions) brought together 15 students, from Montessori and non-Montessori backgrounds and was spread over April to September 2025. The course presented by Jip Bartels showed how physical activity affects children at every stage of development and to prepare a space by analyzing how activities allowed children to control their bodies and objects.

One quote really stayed with me; *"The foot is noble. To walk is noble. Thanks to the feet, the child who already walks can expect certain answers to his secret questions."* This simple statement captures everything we learned. Movement isn't just exercise—it's how children explore and understand their world.



*"We learned that sports aren't just about games and discovered how important movement is throughout life".*

## AMI Elementary Diploma Course Graduation

Kavneet Chadha & Meera Ghelani | Bangalore

The first batch of the blended Elementary Diploma Course led by Alison Awes at Montessori Institute of Bangalore celebrated their graduation on December 6, 2025. It was a great moment for the staff and the new graduates whose months of labour paid off. *"I can never forget the bitter sweet memory of assignment submissions"*, exclaims Solen from the Philippines.

As a hybrid course, balancing the demanding coursework alongside existing responsibilities was challenging for many. Yet, with the encouragement from the team and the camaraderie of batchmates, the students saw it through. They now look forward to carrying the learning into practice.



*"Coming from a completely non-Montessori background, this course truly helped me build my understanding from the ground up. The program was rigorous, but we were guided with patience and clarity, and offered support whenever possible."* - Mukhil J

## AMI Elementary Orientation Course

Vidhya Ramalingam | Hyderabad



Medha Montessori Training Institute conducted the online Orientation Course from November 3 to 19, 2025, guided by Suganthi Vijayakumar, AMI Elementary Auxiliary Trainer. The course left participants inspired by the Montessori approach and they reflected on how they would apply the principles in their work to better support children's needs. Tejaswi, a Primary Montessori Guide initially joined out of curiosity but the engaging teaching style and insightful classroom stories sparked a genuine interest in pursuing the Elementary diploma someday.

*"The course also gave me the chance to observe an Elementary environment and see cosmic education unfold in real time and group discussions with fellow students energised and added depth to the learning."* - Tejaswi

## AMI Primary Students Visits – Nature Walk & Kitabkhana

.Nurain Shaikh & Amita Singh | Mumbai

The students of Ratan Tata Institute made enriching visits in October to Hanging Garden and a book store that allows them to reflect on their own learning and ways to offer the richness with children.

*“As we are learning to observe the child, I realized it is equally important to observe our surroundings to notice the small details in nature, the movements, the patterns, the changing colors of the leaves in different seasons, the shapes, sounds, smells and textures, and the life happening quietly all around us,”* shares Nurain Shaikh. By cultivating this awareness within ourselves, we can help children develop the same sense of observation and appreciation for the natural world. Through such observation, a wealth of knowledge can be discovered.



The guided nature walk was a reminder of how much nature can ground and inspire and the importance of nurturing curiosity in children. Even the simplest things in nature that often go unseen can spark wonder if we only pause, observe, and notice.

The experience of visiting a bookstore always feels close to heart — refreshing, calming, and filled with quiet joy. The students explored the children's book collection, looking through some of their own favourite titles and discovered beautiful books from Indian publishing houses that were rooted in our culture and reality.

*“I now realise that books are not just stories — they are doorways that connect children to the world around them.”* Through rich language, beautiful illustrations, and the collaboration of authors and illustrators, books bring together happiness, knowledge, and creativity in such a simple yet profound way.

*“I hope this course continues to guide us, as adults, to choose books that truly meet the needs of the child — helping them grow, imagine, and connect with their world in meaningful ways”* - Amita Singh



## IMF Talk – ‘Navigating the Adolescent Years’ & ‘Helping Children Grow in Harmony’

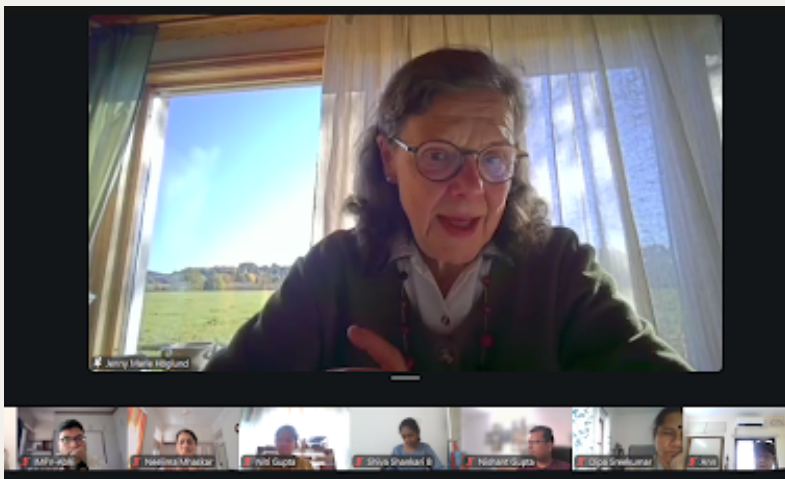
Vidhya Ramalingam & Kavneet Chadha | Online

On October 18, 2025, Jenny Marie Höglund, AMI 6-18 Trainer, highlighted how helping adolescents who are in a sensitive and transformative stage between childhood and adulthood begins with understanding their developmental needs.

The specially prepared environment, the Erd-Kinder with meaningful work allows for growth with dignity, purpose, and responsibility. Time spent in the farm and being in nature allows them to build a strong and respectful connection with the world around them.

This was followed by a session on helping children grow in harmony in November by AMI Primary Trainers Ramya Sridhar and Dipa Sreekumar. A significant takeaway from the session for a student from RTI was the recognition of the child's intrinsic community spirit.

*“Children naturally demonstrate mutual respect, cooperation, and care for their surroundings and a Montessori environment nurtures these tendencies, fostering joy, love, respect, and harmony in place of competition or comparison”* - Amita Singh



*“Education should support not only individual growth but also the betterment of society. When adolescents are given the space to study, work, and engage in real-life responsibilities, they do more than learn about life—they begin to live it, preparing themselves for their meaningful place in the world.”* - Jenny Marie Höglund



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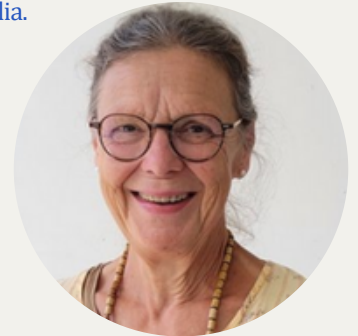
### Irene F - 'Me Myself and Other'

Irene Fafalios lives and works in Athens, Greece, where in 2002 she set up The Montessori Institute. Irene is an AMI Trainer (3-6) and an International lecturer and Examiner for AMI. Over the last 20 years, she has worked to establish Montessori in mainland Greece and now to other neighbouring islands.



### Rebecca D - 'Montessori's Cosmic Vision'

Rebecca has taught at the 3-6, 6-9 and 9-12 levels and worked with parents, administrators and teachers in Australia, Brazil, China, Japan, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Portugal, Qazaqstan, Russia, Thailand and Ukraine. She is currently the Director of Elementary Training at Sydney, having worked tirelessly to bring AMI 6 - 12 training to Australia.



### Jenny Höglund - 'Montessori for Community'

In 1995, Jenny Höglund founded a Montessori school near Göteborg, Sweden, serving children aged 1-12. She is currently an AMI trainer at the 6-12 and 12-18 levels, with a Master's in Education and decades of experience. Her pioneering work with adolescents has shaped the Montessori approach to this developmental stage.

## Demystifying Montessori Materials

*'What do toddlers do in school?' is a question that always comes up! Janani Rajyasri, parent and educator, brings 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).*

### Sewing

Sewing is introduced in the young children's community because children at this age are drawn to fine motor movements that challenge their ability. Something about handling a needle and lacing back and forth draws their whole being. This set is made available with thick, blunt tipped needles and cardstock paper punched with holes in a variety of shapes - circle, triangle, square and some basic lines. At this age, the purpose is not to produce a finished object, but to give the child repeated, purposeful hand movements that strengthen fine motor control, visual tracking, and persistence.



The materials are real, scaled to the child's abilities, and presented in an orderly tray or basket. The adult demonstrates slowly - threading the needle, pulling it through, feeling the gentle resistance of the fabric or card, and drawing the thread to its full length. The child, fascinated by the process, repeats it over and over.

In this way, sewing becomes more than a craft - it is a preparation for writing through the pincer grip, for problem-solving when a knot appears, and for sustained attention over a sequence of steps. It is also an introduction to one of the most cherished human skills - embroidery, knitting and crocheting. Later, as skills develop, we will show them to sew buttons, sew a heart or flower onto a napkin - gaining both practical skill and independence.

Photo Courtesy - Navadisha Montessori School

# Experiencing Montessori

Meera Ghelani

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



Hima Babu discovered the benefits of Montessori when she enrolled her 18 month daughter Keshvi to a Montessori infant community. Almost immediately she noticed minute but significant changes in her; the urge of independence, the attempts to do everything by herself, keeping her things back in place and cleaning everything she could. "Whenever there were accidental spills, without anyone prompting, Keshvi would say 'It's okay. I'll clean it', and grab a cloth and clean up everything."

According to Hima, being a part of the Montessori community in itself is a huge gain. She has received a lot of support and collaboration from her school in raising her daughter, with the principle of 'following the child' and keeping her curiosity alive and providing answers for the constant questioning of 'what' and 'why' in everything.

## Songs for the Elementary

My hand in your hand

Performed by **Elementary Children of Bhavishya MHOC**

[Link to the Song - My hand in your hand](#)

## Lyrics - My hand in your hand

**My hand in your hand**

**Come stand next to me**

**My land is your land**

**Its plain to see**

**We could together all around the world**

**Join friends forever**

**Every boy, every girl**

**It could be so easy**

**But I don't understand**

**Why we don't just hold on to each other's  
hands**



# 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.

*"If we study the child better than we have done hitherto, we discover love in all its aspects. Love has not been analysed by the poets and by the prophets, but it is analysed by the realities which every child discloses in himself." Maria Montessori*  
*The Absorbent Mind*, p. 267

Out on a nature walk, a 5 year old noticed that one of the hibiscus trees had been cut down from its spot. She drew the adult's attention to it and remarked "I don't know why" as though she was prompting for the reason to be known. The adult assured her that she would find out from someone and let her know by the end of the day. Later during the walk, they ran into the gardener and the adult enquired about the loss of their beloved hibiscus tree. To that the gardener said "Teachers and children sit on the ledge that is built beneath the tree. Sometimes, insects and worms from the tree keep falling off on them so we had to take the tree down." and walked away. The child who had also listened to her reason, paused until she was out of the vicinity and said "That does not make sense, we can sit somewhere else, no?"



Photo Courtesy: Niktha Mathur

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**ONLINE WORKSHOP**

**Building Bridges: Language in the Casa**

February 14, 2026  
09:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

**PRESENTERS SUPRAJA TRAINING TEAM**

Language in the Montessori Casa is more than stories we tell and the poems that we recite. It is a living exchange between children and adults in the environment. We know that conversations, shared experiences, and responding to the world around us strengthen vocabulary and fuel the imagination. How do we make every moment an opportunity for meaningful language? We will interact in this session, in practical ways, to create a language-rich space where expression, listening, and thinking flourish naturally.

**WORKSHOPS FOR THE YEAR 2025 - 2026**

- An Education that Nurtures- Oct 14, 2025
- Children's Self-Confidence- Oct 14, 2025
- Montessori Beyond the Classroom- Oct 14, Nov 22 & Dec 09, 2025
- Touchpoints: Moments of Impact in the Casa Community- Nov 26, 27 & 28, 2025

Building Bridges: Language in the Casa  
Feb 14, 2026

www.suprajamontessori.org

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# What Brought me to Montessori!

Vidhya Ramalingam

Kiruthika Sidartha with 5 years of experience in the elementary classroom says that she stumbled upon Montessori when she was in search for an alternative method of education for her daughter. After attending a parenting workshop on Montessori education, she enrolled her daughter in a Montessori school. Inspired by her daughter's growth in independence, curiosity, and confidence, she developed a deep personal interest in Montessori and child development.

As a Montessori elementary guide, she expected children to build a strong academic foundation, supported by the prepared environment and guidance. But what truly surprised her was how naturally they developed social and emotional skills like handling conflicts, sharing responsibilities, and collaborating with maturity and respect. Their deep thinking, curiosity, and joyful learning went beyond her expectations. *"Seeing them grow into confident, compassionate individuals has been the most unexpected and rewarding part of my Montessori journey"*, she reflects.



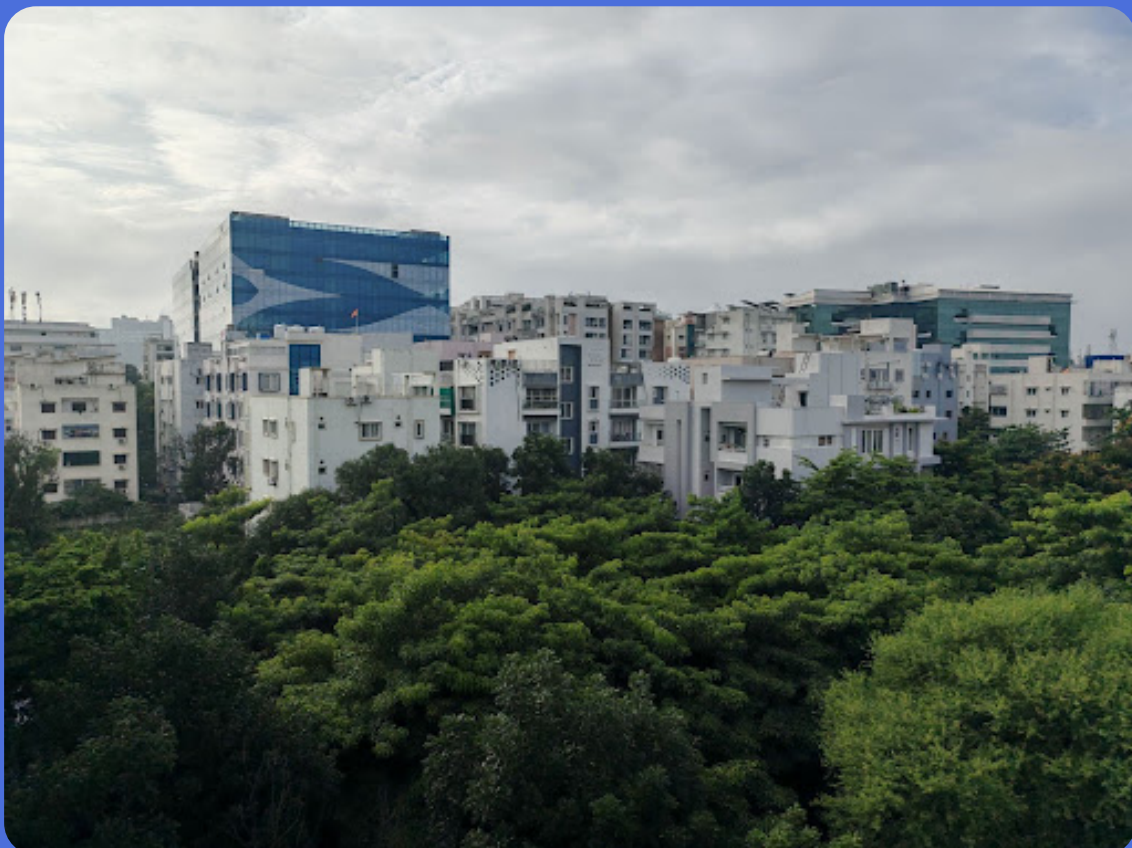
*"Montessori has been more than an educational choice; it has been a transformative journey"*

Kiruthika says that one of the most enlightening moments in her Montessori journey was realizing that children's knowledge isn't always reflected in conventional performance. This realization has shifted her perspective on teaching and learning. She recalls, *"After a presentation on adaptation, I invited the children for a follow up project to explore the concept in their own way, and what followed was remarkable. Some created animal models, others illustrated, some wrote stories and few others even designed experiments. Their diverse responses, independent discoveries, and meaningful collaborations revealed a depth of understanding I hadn't anticipated. This wasn't a one-off. Time and again, in geography and geometry, I've seen how giving children freedom and trust leads to joyful, authentic, and self-driven learning that far exceeds expectations"*.

She reveals that Montessori is not just a routine; it's a dynamic rhythm of curiosity and discovery that brings out the child's creativity and depth, while inspiring the adult to grow alongside them. Simply overhearing their conversations or imaginative stories can spark laughter, thoughtful reflection, and a deep sense of joy with each moment revealing new layers of learning that keeps me inspired.

## Nature Snap

Nature in all its vastness and minuteness, seen through the eyes of children!  
*"Nature and Buildings Coexist"* shot by Karanveer Bharadwaj, 6 years, Hyderabad





# 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	<b><u>Seventh National Montessori Conference: SAPARYA</u></b>	Onsite - Mumbai
Sat   21 February 2026	Exclusive Talk for Flagship Schools	Designing a Prepared Outdoor Environment	Online

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