

Dr Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori was a truly remarkable woman. Born in 1870, she was the first woman to be granted a medical degree from an Italian University.

After graduation, Dr Montessori became director of a school for intellectually disabled children. Her work with these children saw remarkable results. When they competed successfully in public examinations, Dr. Montessori began to wonder what was possible using similar methods with normal children.

Her life work began in 1907 with a group of pre-school children from the slums of Rome, when she opened her famous "Casa dei Bambini" or "Children's House". Through her observations and work with these children she discovered their astonishing, almost effortless ability to learn. Children taught themselves! This simple but profound truth formed the cornerstone of her life-long pursuit of educational reform.



Association Montessori Internationale

The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) was established in 1929, by Dr Maria Montessori and her son Mario M. Montessori. The AMI is the recognised international authority on Montessori education and directs studies in affiliated teacher-training institutions around the world. During its long history the AMI has fostered the growth and development of Montessori education practices and standards through active work with member schools, teachers and educators. Regular study conferences of the AMI have served as important milestones in the development of new practices and the exchange of insights which have grown out of the application of Montessori to widely differing lands and cultures. The central aim of the AMI is to "maintain, propagate and further the ideas and principles of Dr. Maria Montessori for the full development of the human being".

Montessori Teacher Education In Australia

AMI Montessori Teacher Education was established in Australia in 1983 in response to the rapidly growing demand for trained directors/directresses. Fifteen AMI Montessori training courses have been held to date with the majority of graduates now teaching in Montessori schools around Australia.

AMTEF AMI Teacher Trainers



Amy Kirkham has been involved in Early Childhood Education since 1988. In addition to the AMI 3-6 Diploma and AMI Trainer Certificate, she holds a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood), a Bachelor of Educational Studies (Hearing Impairment) and Master of Education. She is also on the Faculty of Trainers for ITCMEC in Shanghai, China. Amy is actively involved in the provision of professional development for Montessori staff as well as parent and community education. She is currently serving on several Australian committees focusing on Montessori research, Quality Assurance and the Australian National Curriculum.

Pamela Nunn has worked in the field of education for 30 years and is an AMI Trainer. She holds a Diploma in Early Childhood Education from South Australia and gained her AMI 3-6 Diploma at the Sydney Montessori Teachers College in 1990. For 11 years, Pamela held the position of Directress and authorised supervisor with the Sydney Montessori Society at Lindfield. Pamela has been involved with professional development of Montessori teachers through workshops and national conferences.



The Montessori Approach

"The Montessori Method is a system of education born from the observation of the needs of the children at every stage of their physical and psychological development. Its objective is to help the child with the enormous task of inner construction necessary to pass from childhood to full adulthood."

Dr. Mario Montessori, Jr., Education for Human Development

Thus, this approach attempts to promote in children characteristics which will help them to develop into free and functionally independent adults with a clear vision of the world around them and their role in it.

In the education of the child the adult has an indispensable function. Guidance is essential to the human development of the child, provided that this is offered with absolute respect for and trust in the child's human potentialities. So the primary function of the teacher is not so much to teach as to direct the natural energy of the child.

The Course

This is an integrated year of study focussing on the developmental needs of the child, with emphasis on the characteristics of the child aged 3 to 6 years.

The course includes:

CODE SUBJECT TITLE

- MM01 The Montessori Philosophy, Psychology and Child Development
- MM02 The Child's Acquisition of Fundamental Learning Skills
- MM03 The Development and Education of the Senses
- MM04 Language and Literacy
- MM05 Mathematics
- MM06 Montessori Materials and their Role in Assisting Child Development
- MM07 The Critical Role of Observation
- MM08 Montessori Professional Experience
- MM09 Educational Theory and Practice
- MM10 Administration
- MM11 Legal Issues and OH&S



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Why Take AMI Training?

Founded by Dr Maria Montessori

The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), founded in 1929 by Dr Maria Montessori, is a global community which continues today to protect the integrity of her work.



A Guarantee of Quality

The Association Montessori Internationale accredits training centres throughout the world. These centres offer AMI diploma courses which are internationally recognised for their high standard and authenticity. The training is essentially the same in each centre. Training centres accredited by AMI remain under the constant supervision of AMI, are staffed by AMI Teacher Trainers and each course is examined by an external examiner appointed by AMI.

Knowledgeable Trainers Make the Difference

Every AMI course is conducted by an AMI trainer. These dedicated trainers have extensive teaching experience, an academic background, have participated in a rigorous Training of Trainers Program and possess in-depth knowledge and understanding of Montessori principles and applications.

AMI Diploma Provides Opportunities

- AMI trained teachers have abundant career prospects and are in demand in Australia
- The AMI diploma is recognised worldwide
- AMI is a truly international organisation
- An experienced AMI trained teacher might consider becoming a head teacher, administrator, consultant, teacher-trainer, or the owner of a school
- AMI also offers further programmes for diploma holders including annual Refresher Courses and the Educateurs san Frontières programme (Educators without Borders) which aims to champion the cause of all children and to revisit Montessori principles and practices from the perspective of society at large.

Why Take “Face-to-Face” Training?

The Montessori approach offers a broad vision of education as an aid to life. It is designed to help children with their task of inner construction as they grow from childhood to maturity. It succeeds because it draws its principles from the natural development of the child. Its flexibility provides a matrix within which each individual child's inner directives freely guide the child toward wholesome growth.

The preparation of the adult about to undertake work with young children demands a high degree of self-discipline and commitment, and a professional attitude. This preparation can only be achieved through immersion in the Montessori theory under the supervision of experienced lecturers. Furthermore, the special materials to be used with the children in a Montessori class require individual training and supervised practice—as each piece of apparatus has a function in the total scheme of the Montessori Prepared Environment.



These fundamental aspects cannot be covered in sufficient depth by distance learning.

Montessori training is a process of re-orientation where students begin to discover for themselves the profound truths underlying the Montessori approach.

Courses are full-time and are offered over an academic year or several summers. The course programme includes lectures, seminars and demonstrations on Montessori philosophy, child development and the Montessori materials. Each course also includes significant components of observation, supervised practice with the materials, material making and teaching practice. Students prepare an album which details the purpose, use and presentation of each piece of material. In the words of Dr Montessori the teacher ‘must give her lesson, plant the seed and then disappear; observing and waiting’ (The Call of Education, Vol. 11, no. IV, December, 1925). This apparently simple proverb continues to be a piece of worthwhile advice and a source of inspiration. It is at the core of the role of the Montessori teacher.

Admissions

There are two forms of admission to the course, Normal Admission and Special Admission. Candidates who have a degree from a recognised University or College, may be granted Normal Admission. A limited number of candidates may be granted special admission status, i.e. those who do not hold the academic qualifications described above but who can satisfy the Admissions Committee that they have a reasonable likelihood of success in the course. All applicants will be required to present for an interview.

Tuition Fees

Application Fee:	\$200
Enrolment Fee:	\$500
Course Fee:	\$12,000
Membership Fees (annual):	\$120

AMTEF reserves the right to cancel the course due to insufficient enrolment.

All fees will be refunded in the event of cancellation by AMTEF.

Graduation Requirements

The Early Childhood (3-6 years) Diploma of the Association Montessori Internationale is granted upon the successful completion of all course requirements. This includes: minimum attendance of 90% at lectures, observations, practical sessions with the materials, and practice teaching; submission of albums containing illustrated notes of didactic materials, preparation of specified classroom materials, written papers and practice teaching and observation reports. Passing grades must be achieved on written theory and practical examinations. In addition students must pass an oral examination conducted by a Board of Examiners from the Association Montessori Internationale.

All AMI Diplomas state that the holder "has studied the principles and practice of the Montessori method for children" only for the specified age group, and has "passed the written and oral examinations." The diploma by itself does not automatically qualify the holder to teach. The Australian State in which the graduate wishes to work will likely have other teaching requirements which must be fulfilled.



Montessori A Career For You

Worldwide, there are several thousand Montessori schools. In Australia at present there are approximately 200 schools and centres and the growth in demand for qualified staff still exceeds availability. Career opportunities exist for AMTEF graduates as the AMI diploma is internationally recognised for its high standard and authenticity.

Become an AMI teacher and prepare for the task of helping children develop their full potential. The Montessori teacher:

- respects children as self-directed individuals and fosters growth toward independence and social responsibility
- creates an atmosphere of calm, order, and joy; a safe and stimulating environment which supports the developmental stages of each child
- helps children progress at their own pace and gradually discover their own capabilities
- gives engaging presentations with the beautiful, self-correcting Montessori materials

"One of the main differences for me personally in moving into Montessori Education is the experience of total involvement with all aspects of the child's development. This has given me a new level of job satisfaction."
Graduate/Directress

"With the support of the prepared adult, the child with his unlimited possibilities can be the transformer of humanity, just as he is its creator. The child brings us great hope and a new vision." *Dr Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind*