

Montessori Training Centre of British Columbia

AMI Montessori Assistants Course (3 to 6)



Montessori Philosophy

Children enter the world gifted by nature. With the adult's help in preparing a beautiful, supportive environment conducive to the child's development, the child can carry out the important task of constructing his personality. It is a ceaseless and intense labour, carried out with great joy when assisted by the unconscious powers which nature bestows on the child during the first six years of life.

This was the great discovery that Maria Montessori made: **that the child creates himself as he interacts with the environment, revealing the person that he can become.** That is the primary task of the child. The universality of her discovery of the child has been proven over 100 years throughout the world, with children in all cultural, social, physical and psychological conditions.

Montessori describes education as an aid to life, as a means of supporting and nurturing the continual unfolding of each child's personality. Based on careful, systematic observation of children and their needs and interests at each level of development, the Montessori approach to early childhood education recognizes the tremendous developmental achievements of each child.

“Follow the Child...”

The Montessori Prepared Environment



The Montessori Children's Community (The MCC) In 2006 the MTCBC opened the MCC as a lab school for children aged 2.5 to 6 years. It is one of the sites used for regular observation and teaching practice. It also offers the opportunity for the students in training to go as a group with the Director of Training to observe the same thing at the same time, leading to fruitful discussion.

Beauty, Order, Accessibility Walk into a Montessori classroom, anywhere in the world, and you will invariably see happy and busy children working purposefully. The classroom itself will typically be beautiful and enticing. Great care has been taken to create a learning environment that will reinforce the child's independence and natural urge toward self-development. This is achieved with three essential elements: beauty, order and accessibility. The Montessori materials are beautifully handcrafted and are displayed on low open shelves.

Montessori Materials Every material has a specific purpose and is presented to the children in a manner that enables them to direct their own learning. They are provocative, enticing and simple tools that stimulate logical thought, exploration and discovery. Each one presents one concept or idea at a time and has a "control of error". If a child does something incorrectly it will be self-evident. For example, the geometric shape will not fit the hole, the water will spill on the table, or the last label will not match the last picture. Seeing his or her own "mistake" becomes a challenge that entices the child to further activity and discovery.

Community The Montessori classroom is not merely a place for individual learning. It is a vibrant community of children, where the child learns to interact socially in a variety of ways. The three-year age range enables older children to develop an awareness of other children's needs, realize they can help, and truly help the younger ones. By observing the older ones, the younger children are inspired to take on new challenges. With such a variety of levels in the classroom, each child can work at his or her own pace, unhindered by competition and encouraged by co-operation. Children attend daily and for a three-year cycle.

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Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)

The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) was founded in 1929 by Maria Montessori to maintain the integrity of her life's work, and to ensure that it would be perpetuated after her death. AMI is the recognized international authority on Montessori education. During its long history AMI has fostered the growth and development of Montessori programmes and teacher training, and worked to support the development and education of children and young adults in a vast variety of settings throughout the world. AMI is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (since 1985) and an NGO in operational relations with UNESCO (since 1962).

AMI's Objectives The objectives of the Association are to uphold, propagate and further the pedagogical principles and practice formulated by Dr. Maria Montessori for the full development of the human being. The Association aims to establish these objectives by all lawful means and in particular by:

- a. Upholding the rights of the child in society, and making known the child's importance for the progress of civilization;
- b. Making known the natural laws of growth in order to help the child to develop naturally in the family, school and society;
- c. Awakening public opinion with regard to the moral dignity of the child as 'the Father of Man', and to make clear the true nature of adult responsibility toward the child as the worker whose spontaneous activity produces the full-grown man;
- d. Spreading and upholding the pedagogical principles and practice formulated by Dr. Maria Montessori, which ensure the independence of the child's personality through successive stages of growth until he reaches full normal development by means of his own activity;
- e. Providing opportunities wherever possible for children to develop normally, thereby helping all adults to enter into a new life of harmony and co-operation with children; and by thus unifying the two fundamental phases of human life, to lead the way to a higher and more peaceable civilization;
- f. Functioning as a social movement that will strive to obtain recognition for the rights of the child throughout the world, irrespective of race, religion, political and social beliefs; co-operating with other bodies and organizations which further the development of education, human rights and peace.

For more information on AMI, current and past research and Montessori videos, please visit the AMI website: www.ami-global.org

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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 oversees training centres throughout the world. These centres offer AMI diploma courses which are recognized worldwide for their excellence and authenticity. The training is essentially the same in each centre. Training centres affiliated to 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 a AMI Director of Training. These dedicated trainers have extensive teaching experience, an academic background, have participated in a rigorous Training of Trainers Programme and possess in-depth knowledge and understanding of Montessori principles and applications.

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 be achieved only through immersion in the Montessori theory under the supervision of experienced lecturers. Furthermore, the special materials used with 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 means of distance learning programmes.

Courses are offered over one academic year or in modules according to the format approved by the AMI Scientific Pedagogy Group. The course programme includes lectures, seminars and demonstrations covering Montessori philosophy, child development and information on the presentation of Montessori materials. Each course also includes significant components of observation, supervised practice using the didactic materials, material making and sessions of teaching practice. Students prepare individual albums which detail the purpose, use and presentation of each piece of material. The intensity of being immersed daily in the course, with expert guidance, makes the course a unique personal experience that will become an engaging journey of personal discovery and professional growth.

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The Value of an AMI Diploma

- AMI trained teachers have abundant career prospects and are in demand throughout the world
- The AMI diploma is a much sought-after credential by Montessori schools seeking classroom staff
- AMI is an educational organization with a strong global presence
- An experienced AMI trained teacher may go on to consider allied career opportunities such as becoming a head teacher, administrator, consultant, owner of a school, or to train as a teacher trainer through the AMI Training of Trainers programme
- AMI also offers further programmes for diploma holders including annual Refresher Courses. The Educateurs sans Frontières programme (Educators without Borders) aims to champion the cause of all children and to revisit Montessori principles and practices from the perspective of society at large.

"Education, therefore, of little ones is important, especially from three to six years of age, because this is the embryonic period for the formation of character and of society, just as the period from birth to three is that for forming the mind, and the prenatal period that for forming the body."

(The Absorbent Mind, p. 22 1/2)

The Montessori Training Centre of BC

Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) The only AMI affiliated training centre in western Canada, the MTCBC was established in 1982 to meet the growing need for AMI Montessori educators. Our purpose as a non-profit society is to offer Montessori training courses accredited by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). Website: www.ami-global.org

Early Childhood Education The MTCBC is an approved training institution in British Columbia. To be qualified to work as a certified early childhood educator (ECE) in B.C., you are required to complete a basic early childhood education training program from an approved training institution. Applications for an ECE certificate are sent to the Early Childhood Educator Registry, Ministry of Children and Family Development on completion of the MTCBC course. Website: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ece

Private Training Institutions Branch, (The Ministry of Advanced Education)

The MTCBC is a designated institution with the Private Training Institutions Branch (PTIB) of the Ministry of Advanced Education. Website: www.ptib.bc.ca

Designated Learning Institution (DLI) The MTCBC is a Designated Learning Institution in the International Student Program (ISP) listed with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Website: www.cic.gc.ca

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Assistants Course Staff

Eduardo Cuevas, Director of Training, completed AMI Primary Training in 1973 in Mexico City. Besides having directed his own class in the school he founded, he has directed training courses in Puerto Rico, Spain and the United States, and has been with the MTCBC since 1999. Mr. Cuevas has extensive experience as an AMI Consultant and Director of Parent Education Programmes. He holds a Master's Degree in Primary Education from Loyola College, Baltimore, USA and is a past member of the AMI Board of Directors.

Gilda Bonnet, Auxiliary Trainer and Course Assistant has 40 years of experience as an AMI Montessori Directress and is the current and first Head of School at the Montessori Children's Community (MCC) in Vancouver, British Columbia. She established the MCC in 2006 as the lab school for the Montessori Training Centre which is now also used for Primary Teacher Training observations and practicums. She has also worked internationally, establishing model classrooms for the AMI training programmes given in Puerto Rico and Spain.

Caroline Loughran, Founding Director and Administrator, completed her AMI Primary Training in London, England in 1972 where she worked as a Directress in the training centre model class. Following 10 years' experience as a Directress in Vancouver, she has served in different capacities at the MTCBC since its founding.

Angela Sali, Registrar and ECE Coordinator completed her AMI Primary Training in Vancouver, BC in 2001. She has been working with primary aged children since then. She is happy to serve the Montessori community and support students in their journey to becoming Montessori educators.

Assistants Course Outline

The Montessori Training Centre of BC offers an Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) Assistants Course, open to anyone wishing to know more about the Montessori philosophy. There are no pre-requisites for this course. The Assistants course highlights the important work of the adult as an aid to the child's development at the crucial early stages of life; knowledge and understanding that could be applied to young children in any setting, including the home environment and as a support to the Guide in a Montessori Children's House.

The course lectures will consist of study from the following areas:

Montessori Education

Stages of Development
The Prepared Environment
Role of the Directress/Guide
Role of the Assistant
Development of Language
Scientific Observation
Absorbent Mind
Sensitive Periods

Freedom and Discipline
Development of Independence
Development of Movement
Social Development
Order and Organization
Practical Applications

Credit for the ECE Assistant Certificate
Work as an Assistant in a Montessori Preschool/Kindergarten

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“My assistant attended the course and was able to start the school year with a good understanding of the philosophy, some of the nuances, and its application in the classroom. It was a huge relief - I strongly recommend the Assistant’s Course for anyone stepping into the Montessori classroom.”
Debbie Marette, Blue Spruce Montessori

Course work will consist of lectures, the reading of selected Montessori passages, discussion, practical aspects for implementation and the writing of an Assistant’s Album. An AMI Children’s House Assistants Course Certificate of Completion and transcript will be issued, based upon 90% attendance, course participation and the completion of the Assistant’s Album.

Course Calendar

Week 1: Monday, August 21 to Saturday, August 26 (six days)

Week 2: Monday, August 28 to Friday, September 1 (five days)

Daily class time: 8:30am to 3:30pm, with an hour lunch break each day.

Attendance is mandatory on the first day of classes. A course certificate of completion will be awarded with a minimum 90% attendance.

Tuition Fees in Canadian Dollars

Application Fee:	\$200
Tuition:	\$950
Materials Fee:	\$ 40

All fees and tuition are due upon registration in order to reserve your space in the course.

Sufficient registration is required by **June 30, 2017** to ensure the course is offered. For information on tuition and fee refund, please refer to our Tuition and Fee Refund Policy as provided in the information and application package.

AMI Assistants Course Registration

Week 1: Monday, August 21 to Saturday, August 26 (six days)

Week 2: Monday, August 28 to Friday, September 1 (five days)

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Educational History

High School: _____

College/University: _____

Other: _____

Employment Reference

Employer (school where employed or other): _____

Telephone Number: _____ Contact Name: _____

Program Admission Requirements

Please note: Applicants must be 19 years of age by graduation and have Grade 12 or Mature Student Status (19 years of age or older).

1. Completed Registration Form.
2. Photocopy of two pieces of Government ID (driver's license, passport, birth certificate, etc.).
3. A non-refundable application fee of \$200, tuition fee of \$950 (refundable if unable to attend) and material fee of \$40 (refundable if unable to attend)
4. Student Enrolment Contract.

Tuition Fee:

Application Fee: (Non-refundable.)	\$ 200.00
Tuition Fee: (Refundable if you are unable to attend.)	950.00
Material Fee: (Refundable if you are unable to attend.)	<u>40.00</u>
TOTAL: Payable in full with Registration Form	\$ 1,190.00

- Payable by cheque, cash, money order, wire transfer or *Interac* e-Transfer to:
Montessori Training Centre of B.C. (Sorry, we do not accept Credit Cards at this time.)

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