



Montessori Assistants to Infancy (0 to 3) Diploma Course
2019-2020



“... we must never forget that man... begins his mental growth at birth and pursues it with greatest intensity during the first three years of life.”
~Dr. Maria Montessori

“Follow the Child...”



Montessori Training Centre of British Columbia

*“Whoever touches the life of the child,
touches the most sensitive point of a whole
which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future.”
Maria Montessori*



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 for Children Birth to 3

The first three years of life are the most fundamental in the development of human beings and their potential. The infant's physical development is phenomenal, apparent and inspires our care and attention. Yet a profound and less obvious development is taking place within the child. Montessori refers to the child at this period as the spiritual embryo. A second embryonic period occurs after birth when the child's psychic organs are formed as the child acquires the culture and language into which he or she is born. It is a period when the core of personality, social being and the essence of spiritual life are developed. An understanding of the child's development and the development of the human brain allow the adults to prepare environments to meet the changing needs of the infant, and foster the development of independence, movement and language acquisition.

Communities for Children under Three

For children under the age of three, there are several Montessori environments:

- **Nido (2/3 months ~ 12 months):** Created especially for working parents, this environment allows the infants to continue to thrive in a homelike environment with a small group of infants.
- **Parent-Infant Program (2 months to 12 months):** Parents and infants are gathered under the care of the trained adult to explore and learn together in a prepared environment.
- **Infant Community (walking to 3 years):** After they begin to walk, the children join the Infant Community where their primary motor coordination, independence and language are cultivated. Rather than a classroom, it is a nurturing environment where very young children experience their first structured contact with other children.



Mother and child attend a Parent-Infant Class

"Already we have found it reasonable to suppose that the child, at birth, bears within him constructive possibilities, which must unfold by activity in his environment. He comes from nothing, in the sense that he has no psychic qualities, nor pre-established powers of movement, but he has in himself potentialities which determine his development, and this will take its characteristics from the world about him."
(Absorbent Mind, p.53)

"Follow the Child..."



Nido, Italian for 'nest' (2 months to pre-walking). This is a prepared environment for children from 3 months to walking age. It is an alternative environment to the home for infants with working parents. There are four main areas: physical care, movement, feeding, and sleeping. Understanding that the infant is going through a critical stage in life to develop a humanly relationship with the adults, the areas are designed to meet the needs of a healthy emotional, psychological, intellectual and physical development. As soon as the child begins walking, s/he transitions into the Infant Community.



Montessori Infant Community (walking to 3 years). When the child begins to walk, his hands are free to transform his environment. Through purposeful activities, young children develop self-confidence, self-reliance and independence as they learn how to make choices in their environment. In this vibrant community of young children, they not only choose activities and work independently, but also learn to interact socially in various ways. Language acquisition is also an important part of the Infant Community where the adults model graceful and courteous ways of relating to others and giving precise language to all the materials and activities in the environment. Children transition from Infant community to the Casa Environment around 3 years of age.

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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 program
- AMI also offers further programs for diploma holders including annual Refresher Courses. The Educateurs sans Frontières program (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.

The Montessori Training Centre of BC (MTCBC)

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

Infant Toddler Educator Certificate (ECE, Post Basic) The Assistants to Infancy Course is accredited by the provincial government. Graduates who hold an ECE certificate in British Columbia qualify for the Post Basic Infant Toddler Educator Certificate upon completion of the course. Applications for a certificate are sent to the Early Childhood Educator Registry, Ministry of Children and Family Development. 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 to Infancy Course Staff



Maria Teresa (Chacha) Vidales, Director of Training, (Mexico) is an AMI Director of Training at the Assistants to Infancy Level. She has directed courses in Dallas, Texas, China and Australia. She also co-directed the Assistants to Infancy Course in Japan and San Diego, and collaborated with the course in Denver. Maria Teresa serves as AMI examiner, consultant, lecturer, and workshop leader. Maria Teresa also holds the AMI Primary diploma. She has operated a school in Mexico since 1989, and has been working with children close to thirty years. Chacha also served on the AMI Board of Directors. We are thrilled to be offering a 6th course under Chacha Vidales' directorship.



Teanny Hurtado, Co-Director of Training. As a daughter of Maria Teresa Vidales, Teanny's journey in Montessori began in Mexico City where she attended Montessori school from the age of 4 to 12 years. She holds her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Psychotherapy from the Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City. As an AMI Assistants to Infancy Diploma (0-3) holder, Teanny worked in Chacha's Montessori school with this age group for more than 25 years. Here she opened the first Nido in Mexico in 1999 for babies aged 3 months old to walking. Currently she has been lecturing alongside Maria Teresa Vidales (Chacha) in courses in Mexico, China and Canada. Teanny is an AMI consultant in Mexico and the USA and gives workshops for teachers and parents. We are very pleased she is able to bring her deep passion for and understanding of this age group to our course in Vancouver.



Cathy Lingbin Xi, Course Assistant. Cathy completed her BA in English in China before venturing to Canada to study Early Childhood Education from birth to 6 in Ontario. She became inspired to learn more about Maria Montessori's work and completed her AMI Primary Diploma at the Montessori Training Centre of BC. She wanted to know still more, so enrolled in the Assistants to Infancy Diploma Course (0 – 3). Expecting her first child at the end of the first summer of her studies, she realizes how the course truly prepared her and her husband for the day to day life with a newborn son! At the end of the second summer of her studies, their son took his first step! She says life is a joy with him as she has deepened her knowledge of the first three years of life and understands human development for a different and most inspiring perspective! Cathy looks forward to being part of this wonderful journey of discovery that the students embark on.

"Follow the Child..."



Assistants to Infancy Course Overview

The AMI Montessori Assistants to Infancy Training course graduates are prepared to be Montessori Infant Toddler Educators to work with parents perinatally, assist with the infant at birth, prepare beautiful and responsive environments, direct Infant Toddler Communities in schools and day care settings and wherever children under the age of three are found!

- **Montessori Pedagogy and Philosophy:** the natural development of the child from conception to three years of age
- **Anatomy and Physiology**
- **Obstetrics** Prenatal, birth, and postnatal development
- **Nutrition and Hygiene** Maternal care, digestive system, food preparation, and health issues.
- **Child Neuropsychiatry:** The Nervous System and normal psychological development
- **Development of Movement and Development of Language**
- Preparation of the **Home Environment** and **Infant Community** as an aid to human development within the first three years of life.
- **Music, Art, and Social/Emotional Development**
- **Material Making** Hand-made materials
- **Observations** Practical training for observation of infants and toddlers in homes and Infant Communities
- **Practicum in a Montessori Infant Community** directed by an AMI Assistants to Infancy Diploma holder.
- **Preparation of reference and resource albums**

Requirements for Certification

The Montessori Assistants to Infancy Diploma is granted upon satisfactory completion of the course requirements in:

- attendance at lectures and supervised practice (at least 90% of attendance)
- 250 hours observation of infants and toddlers which includes at least a one week practice in a Montessori Infant Community
- material making assignments
- written assignments and research paper
- reference albums and resource manuals
- passing grades on written examinations
- passing grades in oral examinations conducted by Examiners of the AMI.

Montessori Assistants to Infancy Diploma (AMI)

The Montessori Training Centre of BC (MTCBC) works in affiliation with the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). The courses offered must meet rigorous standards, in both content and teaching staff. The Diploma awarded by the MTCBC is in great demand by Montessori Schools both nationally and internationally. Individuals must enquire what local requirements set out by governmental regulatory bodies must also be met when applying for teaching positions.

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Program Admission Requirements and Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	Application Form	The completed application form may be emailed or mailed directly to MTCBC.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application Fee	Please refer to the Tuition and Schedule of payments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statement of Purpose	See questions provided on the application form.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resume	A Resume (Curriculum vitae) must accompany the application form.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcripts	The applicant must request transcripts from the most recently attended University, Community College or other institution granting a diploma and have it forwarded directly to the MTCBC. If you already have an official transcript, you may include it with the application form. Preference is given to applicants with a Bachelor's Degree or College Diploma. Applicants must be 19 years of age at graduation and have completed Grade 12 OR Mature Student Status (19 years of age or older).
<input type="checkbox"/>	References	Please provide each referee with the Reference Form you receive from the MTCBC. They must return it to you in a sealed envelope, to be included with your application package, or they must mail, fax or e-mail it directly to the MTCBC. If they choose to mail it, we suggest you provide them with a stamped, addressed envelope to facilitate a prompt reply. The contact information for your references must be included on your application form. Two of the three references must be on file to proceed with your interview. Referees should be an instructor, an employer and a family friend.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government ID:	Photocopy of two pieces of Government ID (driver's license, passport, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health Certificate	Please use the form provided by the MTCBC. The form must be signed and stamped by a Physician to certify that the applicant is in good health.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent to a Criminal Record Check Form	Please complete only Part 1 (not 2 and 3) of the Form provided and sign and date it at the bottom and return by e-mail or mail to the MTCBC. The forms must be sent from the MTCBC to the Ministry of Justice in BC..
<input type="checkbox"/>	English Language Proficiency:	The academic portion of the Course is conducted at a university level and the language of instruction is English. For ESL students who have not completed courses given in English at a post-secondary institution, an IELTS ACADEMIC score of 6.0, a TOEFL score of 220 computer testing, 83 internet based testing or an equivalent test score, as determined by the Montessori Training Centre of BC, is required. Documentation is required with application papers. Note: The course is given in English, but Spanish speaking students may do written course work and take exams in Spanish. For other languages, an individual or group of students can work with a translator to provide simultaneous translation. Contact us for more information.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Interview:	A personal interview will be arranged for each applicant once the aforementioned items have been received, indicating application file is complete. Once the interview has been completed, the Admissions Committee will meet and an offer of acceptance will or will not be made.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Study Permits:	<p>Applicants attending the course in Canada for less than six months and returning home between summers will not require a Study Permit. The MTCBC will provide a Letter of Attendance for entry into Canada for the study period for the first summer. A second letter will be provided the following year for the second study period. Applicants may be required to show a return ticket home when entering Canada. Canada Immigration website: www.cic.gc.ca/English/visit/visas.asp</p>
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Course Calendar and Location:

Location:	1410 Nanton Avenue, Vancouver, BC (Satellite Campus of the MTCBC)
Time:	8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday to Friday (occasional Saturdays may be required)
Schedule:	
First Summer:	<p>June 24 – August 31, 2019</p> <p>The first summer's work begins with an overview of Montessori Pedagogy, following the child's natural development, and focusing on the period from conception to age three. Students also study Anatomy and Physiology, Obstetrics, Hygiene, and Nutrition in the Medical components. Preparation for the Home Environment and materials to support the child's Psychosensory-Motor Developments are carefully studied. Students make materials for children under 12 months under supervision of and checked by the MTCBC staff.</p>
Between the two Summers:	<p>The requirements are arranged by the student and discussed with the Trainers. Students complete 250 hours of observation of children from birth to three, at home and in group settings. Each student arranges a Practicum in a Montessori Infant Community directed by an AMI Assistants to Infancy Diploma holder who will evaluate the Practicum. If a visit is required by a course staff member, travel and lodging expenses are the student's responsibility. Observation assignments are handed in regularly during this period. Student must complete and submit the written assignments and paper by the deadlines set out in the conference with the Trainers.</p>
Second Summer:	<p>June 15 – August 28, 2020</p> <p>The second summer furthers the students' knowledge with a study of Child Neuropsychiatry and Community Environments. The focus is on preparation of the Infants Community (for children from 12 to 36 months). Written assignments are handed in regularly throughout the summer. Written and oral exams are given at the end of the second summer. Students are required to practice with the materials under supervision.</p>

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Testimonials:

“The vast amount of knowledge gained from the Assistants to Infancy training is a MUST for all individuals who plan to have children or work with them. The course staff are incredibly knowledgeable and deliver the content with inspiration and meaning. If more individuals had this specific knowledge of infant development, we would see a difference in the children we are raising.” Christie Stanford

*“This course exceeded all my expectations regarding the development of the child from conception onward. I gained a deep understanding of the young child, so much so that it literally transformed me.”
Dina Russo-De Cotiis*

Tuition and Fee Schedule of Payments

(All fees are in Canadian Dollars)

Application Fee is non-refundable and must be included with the Application Form:

Canadian or Permanent Resident:

Before December 15	\$ 150.00
After December 15	\$ 200.00

International Student: \$ 300.00

Tuition and Fees for all students: \$10,275 CDN Dollars

Deposit is due upon Acceptance to hold your place in the course.

For Early Registration the deposit is due by December 15, 2018 \$ 500.00

First Fee Installment due May 1, 2019: \$ 5,775.00

Tuition Fee: \$5700

AMI Membership Fee: \$50

Government Archive Fee: \$25

Second Fee Installment due May 1, 2020: \$ 4,000.00

Tuition Fee: \$ 3600

AMI Membership: \$ 50

Exam Fee: \$ 350

Additional Course Expense

Students should budget approximately \$900 for books, supplies and hand-made materials.

Please note: The MTCBC reserves the right to cancel the course if minimum enrollment is not met.

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