ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONALE

AMI

# ASSISTANTS COURSE PROGRAM CHILDREN'S HOUSE

## Course Brochure

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**Focus of the Assistant's work:**

The intention of the Assistants Course is to help interested adults become able assistants in a Montessori Children's House.

The task of the Assistant is to support and help the director/directress maintain the equilibrium within the class.

- To observe
- To learn when and how to intervene (not interfere)
- To acquire the ability to allow the children to become more and more independent; "any unnecessary help is a hindrance to development"
- To gain knowledge of Montessori's understanding of Freedom and Discipline
- To acquire the ability to support the development of the child by assisting the teacher

**Duration of the course programme:**

- Sixty hours at the Centre and nine additional hours of observation – either immediately after the course or parallel to the course. Specific topics to focus on will be given for observation.

**Course structure options:**

- Two full days per week
- Six weekends @ ten hours per weekend
- Five hours per week for twelve weeks
- A full week plus evenings
- Weekends and evenings, etc.

Note: Whatever the format, the course should not be extended beyond twelve weeks.

**Obligatory reading:**

It is recommended that selected reading from the four books listed below be undertaken during the course to prepare the Assistants for further reading after the course.

- The Secret of Childhood
- The Child in the Family
- Education for a New World
- The Absorbent Mind

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**The Course Programme:**

| UNIT CODE | UNIT TITLE |
|---|---|
| I. | Introduction to Montessori |
| II. | The Role of the Directress |
| III. | The Role of the Assistant |
| IV. | Overview of the Planes of Development |
| V. | The Child's Mind from 0-6 years also touching upon Sensitive Periods |
| VI. | **Order:** The importance of Order and Precision, with emphasis on the part Order plays in the development of the personality |
| VII. | **Movement 0-6:** Development of Movement and its significance for the child |
| VIII. | **Language:** Development of, also taking into account the following elements:<br>• Preparation of the adult<br>• Use of language in general<br>• Vocabulary – correct, precise, rich, scientifically exact<br>• How to listen to children<br>• How to elicit language |
| IX. | **Independence:** Development of, also taking into account different levels of independence – physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual, as conditions for interdependence |
| X. | **Prepared Environment:** Home and Casa dei Bambini (the physical and the intangible) |
| XI. | **Freedom and Discipline:** Understanding the concept of Freedom from the Montessori point of view and the growth of Discipline as an inner development |
| XII. | Social Development |
| XIII. | Observation and its relevance (technique and recording of) |
| XIV. | Music and Art |

**Three hours shall be dedicated to:**

- Having the Assistants practise basic movements such as walking within the environment, carrying trays, chairs, materials, etc.;
- Opening and closing doors, drawers, etc., as a model for the children in a Montessori Prepared Environment;
- Essential grace and courtesy – greeting children, giving appropriate assistance in the cloakroom, etc.

**Ten hours shall be dedicated to:**

- Introducing the techniques for making, mending and maintaining materials

**Further requirements for the student:**

- Submission of three papers (500 words each) on topics set by the Trainer/Auxiliary Trainer, to be submitted by a date stipulated by the training centre/organising body.
- In order to obtain the Children's House Assistants Course Certificate a minimum of 90% attendance is required.

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## Association Montessori Internationale

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 recognised 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 Organisation (NGO) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (since 1985) and an NGO in operational relations with UNESCO (since 1962).

## The Mission

The mission of the Association Montessori Internationale is to support the natural development of the human being from birth to maturity, enabling children to become the transforming elements of society, leading to a harmonious and peaceful world.

## AMI Montessori Training

The Association Montessori Internationale accredits training centres throughout the world. These centres offer AMI diploma courses that are internationally recognised for their high standard and authenticity.

The courses offered by the Association Montessori Internationale prepare adults to work with children at the following levels: Assistants to Infancy (0-3), Primary (3-6), First Plane (0-6) and Elementary (6-12). Work is also underway to document the current body of knowledge relating to Montessori education for the 12-18 year age group and an Orientation for teachers (in collaboration with NAMTA) is available.

Each year thousands of teachers and classroom assistants are trained worldwide. The number of AMI teachers graduating is still less than demand which is due to the worldwide recognition of the quality of the AMI Diploma.

All training centres are staffed by highly qualified AMI teacher trainers, and a pedagogical team of experienced advisors ensures that the objectives of Maria Montessori's pedagogical principles are maintained. Students are examined by external examiners, appointed by AMI, to further ensure the high standard and integrity of the courses. Training centres may also run courses at more than one geographical site.

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