



# ASSISTANTS COURSE PROGRAM

## Birth to Three

Course Brochure



AMI

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OUTREACH

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

The intention of the Assistants Course is to help interested adults become able assistants in a Montessori Nido or Infant Community.

The task of the Assistant is NOT to give initial presentations of materials, but rather to support and help the Directress to maintain the equilibrium within the class, to do follow up work with the children, to do language work with the children, helping to maintain order within the environment.

- 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 learn how to gain the children’s trust
- To understand the power of the absorbent mind
- To understand the importance of consistency (also related to use of language) and routines
- To understand the importance of the environment: Indoor and outdoor
- The importance of food and food preparation

**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.

- Understanding the Human Being
- The Child in the Family
- Education for a New World
- The Absorbent Mind



**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, but emphasizing the power of the Absorbent Mind, particularly the Unconscious Absorbent Mind
VI.	<b>Order:</b> The importance of Order and Precision, with emphasis on the part Order plays in the development of the personality
VII.	<b>Movement 0-3:</b> Development of Movement and its significance for the child
VIII.	<b>Language:</b> Development of, also taking into account the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the adult</li> <li>• Use of language in general</li> <li>• Vocabulary—correct, precise, rich, scientifically exact</li> <li>• How to listen to children</li> <li>• How to elicit language</li> <li>• How to give a 3-period lesson</li> </ul>
IX.	<b>Independence:</b> Development of, also taking into account different levels of independence – physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual, as conditions for interdependence
X.	<b>Prepared Environment:</b> Home and Nido, Infant Community (the physical and the intangible)
XI.	<b>Freedom and Discipline:</b> Understanding the concept of Freedom from the Montessori point of view and the growth of Discipline as an inner development the foundation of which is laid from birth to three
XII.	Observation and its relevance (technique and recording of)
XIII.	Music and Art
XIV.	Maintaining the environment (indoor and outdoor)
XV.	Toilet learning in Nido and Infant Community

**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 (e.g. greeting children and parents), giving appropriate assistance in the cloakroom, etc.
- Practice how to help to dress and undress children under 3 and the importance of clothing for

**Ten hours shall be dedicated to:**

- Introducing the techniques for making, mending and maintaining materials
- Learning techniques for vocabulary building

**Further requirements for the student:**

- Submission of three papers (500 words each) on topics set by the course, to be submitted by a date stipulated by the course director.
- In order to obtain the Birth to Three Assistants Course Certificate a minimum of 90% attendance is required.



## 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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