



ASSISTANTS COURSE PROGRAM Elementary

Course Brochure



AMI

LEGACY

CAPACITY

OUTREACH

Focus of the Assistant's work:

The intention of the Assistants Course is to help interested adults become informed, capable, and supportive assistants to a trained elementary teacher. Further, the programme may serve as an information course for administrators of schools and parents.

- To learn the Montessori philosophy with regard to child development
- To observe the elementary child (2nd plane of development)
- To learn how to interact with the Montessori trained teacher
- To learn how to interact with the elementary child
- 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 (9) additional hours of observation of children aged between 6 and 12. The observations are to be done either immediately after the course or parallel to the course.

Course structure options:

- Two full weeks
- One full day a week for ten weeks
- Five weekends (could include a Friday evening session)
- Weekends plus some evenings

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

Required reading:

It is recommended that selected reading from the three books below be assigned during the course to prepare the assistants for continuing their study after the course.

- To Educate the Human Potential
- The Formation of Man
- Education and Peace

Other readings may be included.



The Course Programme:

All topics include relevant texts from Maria Montessori

UNIT CODE	UNIT TITLE
I.	Introduction to Montessori
II.	Introduction to Montessori's theory of human development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs and tendencies • Self construction • Four planes of development • Characteristics of child in second plane
III.	The prepared environment for the second plane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elementary teacher • The materials • Other adults (assistant, experts)
IV.	The plan for the elementary child <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmic education • The pedagogical techniques (examples of lessons may be included) • Role of teacher (transmitter of knowledge, inspiration) • Class composition (mixed ages, sufficient children) • Story telling/oral introductions (Great Stories/ other stories) • Content knowledge (key lessons) • Sensorial/imaginative presentations, leading to abstraction • Develop imagination, leading to creativity • Awareness of necessity for social/moral development • Going Out (implementing the child's self construction) • Other adults (there is more outside the classroom)
V.	Freedom and responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom as applied to child in elementary environment • Responsibility as applied to child in elementary environment
VI.	Interacting with the elementary child <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manner of speaking to a child • Appropriate direction for a child • Manner of redirecting child
The Assistant	Assisting the trained teacher: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have regular meetings with the teacher • Observation of the children that supports the work of the teacher/child • Maintenance of the environment • Ordering supplies • Accompanying children on Going Outs • Role Model for appropriate classroom behaviours (language, movement, activity) • Maintain confidentiality

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. At least one of these topics should be on a theory topic.
- In order to obtain the Elementary Assistants Course Certificate a minimum of 90% attendance is required for the lectures. 100% of observation hours must be fulfilled.



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.

File Name: AMIAssistantsCourseProgrammeElementary Created Mar 2013 Ver No. 1.1

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ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONALE

Koninginneweg 161 1075 CN Amsterdam The Netherlands
T + 31 20 6798932 • info@montessori-ami.org • www.montessori-ami.org