

MONTESSORI PROGRAM FOR AGES 6–12

In her wisdom, Dr. Montessori saw life as a continuum, each stage evolving from the preceding and preparing for the next. Montessori for the elementary child rests on the base or foundation prepared in the Children's House where the child's inquiring mind gathered names and facts. WHAT and WHERE were the interests then. The mind of the elementary child functions in a new way. WHY, HOW, and WHEN are the consuming interests, and all the names and facts acquired before are used by the child's creative imagination to trace the paths of evolution, the discoveries and inventions of human beings and to experience all these ideas in a personal, meaningful way. This is the Age of Cosmic Education – the age of reaching for an introduction to and an overview of everything. In the Children's House one offers the world to the child; in the elementary one offers the universe – from the smallest particles in the atom to galaxies, along with the idea of infinity. The expansive mind of the child is limited only by the resources in his/her environment and the ability and stamina of the adults who prepare the environment. This environment should provide key ideas that unlock the forces inherent in children to think creatively, to retrace and explore with understanding the discoveries and inventions of human beings and to search for new ideas and solutions to today's needs.

The Cosmic View reflects the unity and interrelatedness of all things, animate and inanimate, in the universe. This understanding brings with it a desire to function in a morally and ecologically responsible way – to work with nature instead of against it. The realization of the interdependency of human beings grows along with the knowledge that cooperation is superior to greed and violence.

This all happens joyfully as the prepared environment allows for the growth of responsibility and self-controlled freedom in a natural social setting. The children increase in ability to work cooperatively with others as well as to concentrate individually for longer periods of time. Moral education and self discipline evolve naturally as the children interact with one another in this environment which offers them the opportunity to grow and develop socially, emotionally, and intellectually in an integrated fashion.

Children in Montessori settings who have been supported in their development should arrive at adolescence with self-control, social skills, intellectual skills, and a view of human beings within the universe. This gives them a perspective that enables them to make intelligent choices about their behavior and role in the future.

FOUNDATION COURSE

This intensive course is designed to give an overview of the Montessori Curriculum for children ages 3 to 6. This curriculum forms the base on which the work of the Elementary course rests. It includes lectures on Montessori educational theory and practice along with supervised practice sessions with the materials. This course is a prerequisite for applicants who do not hold an AMI Diploma for children 3 to 6 years old, and will be given in the first summer prior to the commencement of the Elementary Course.

COURSE OF STUDY

The established curriculum of the course includes lectures on Montessori child psychology; educational theory and practice; supervised practice sessions with the Montessori materials; the writing of Material Reference Books that are the student's record of the course lectures; readings in Montessori books and articles along with the writing of theory papers; observation and teaching practice in AMI Montessori elementary classrooms. The Elementary curriculum includes study in the areas of biology, geography, history, language, mathematics, music and art, science and theory. Cosmic Education illustrates the long preparation of the earth for the coming of life, the unity of all things animate and inanimate, the impact of human beings, and recognition of their dependence on each other and the environment.

During the summers, the training center day is from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Reference Book writing will be done during the evenings and weekends, along with material making of the many hand-made materials required for successful practice at the elementary level.

Observation (three separate weeks during the first academic year) and teaching practice (two two-week sessions during the second academic year) will require full days in AMI Montessori classrooms. An eight-day seminar will be held during both academic years.

FACULTY

Director of Training – Jean Miller

Jean K. Miller, Ph.D. received her Doctorate of Education from Case Western Reserve University in 1981. Trained at the Centro Internazionale Studi Montessoriani in Bergamo, Italy, she holds an Elementary Diploma from the Associazione Montessori Internazionale. She received an AMI Primary Diploma from the Montessori Institute of Cleveland. Dr. Miller has more than 40 years of experience in Montessori. She has worked with children in both private and public Montessori schools and has given lectures and workshops to colleges and Montessori groups throughout the world.

Dr. Miller is an AMI Elementary Teacher-Trainer, consultant and examiner and has been the music lecturer at training centers in both North America and Europe. She served on the AMI Board of Directors for 21 years and has directed AMI Elementary Courses in Dallas, Vancouver, British Columbia and Sydney, Australia.

She will be assisted by two experienced Montessori elementary teachers. Guest lecturers are selected from among experienced local, national and international Montessori experts and Teacher Trainers.

The Foundation Course will be conducted by an AMI-recognized 3 – 6 Teacher Trainer.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Summer I

June 16 – July 19, 2008

Foundation Course

(for those without an AMI Primary diploma)

July 21 – August 15, 2008

Elementary Course begins

Lecture / Demonstration / Practicals

Interim Year

Observation in AMI Elementary classes

Winter Seminar I

Eight days in 2009, dates TBA

Summer II

June 8 – August 14, 2009

Lecture / Demonstration / Practicals

Interim Year

Practice Teaching in two different AMI Elementary classrooms

Winter Seminar II

Eight days in 2010, dates TBA

Summer III

June 7 – August 13, 2010

Lectures/Demonstration/Practicals

Written Exam

Oral Exam

Graduation is planned for August 14, 2010.

FEES

Application fee: \$100

Non-refundable fee to accompany application

Tuition deposit: \$1,000

Due upon acceptance to secure place in class

Tuition payments: \$7,000

\$4,000 Due on first day of course Summer I

\$2,500 Due on first day of course Summer II

\$1,000 Due on first day of course Summer III

Tuition Total: \$8,500

****Note:** Payment in full on the first day of the course Summer I will result in a tuition reduction of \$500.

(Tuition deposit \$1,000 + \$7,500 on first day of class = \$8,500 Tuition Total)

****Note:** Individual payment schedules may be arranged under special circumstances.

AMI Membership fee: \$50 for each of the three summers or \$70 if address is outside of the USA

Examination fee: \$250

Due with on first day of class Summer III

Total Fees for Training Cycle: \$400

Foundation Course: \$1750

Due on first day of Foundation Course Summer I for those who do not have an AMI Primary diploma.

In addition, students should plan to budget approximately \$1,000-\$1,300 for making Material Reference Books and to purchase required classroom materials made available to students at cost. Students will work cooperatively to produce essential hand made materials necessary for equipping an elementary class. This includes Time Lines, Charts and Nomenclature material which are all to be completed by the end of the course.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Complete the enclosed application. Check the Elementary level in section indicated. Check Foundation Course if you are not an AMI primary diploma holder. If you do hold a Primary diploma fill out the section attached completely. Answer questions on separate pieces of paper.
- Notify three professional references that they will be contacted and provide full contact information to MINT.
- Send the application to MINT with a non-refundable \$100 application fee.
- Have all college transcripts sent directly to MINT.
- Upon receipt of application, references, and transcripts, a personal interview will be scheduled or a telephone interview will be conducted when distance is too far for a personal meeting.

Upon completion and evaluation of the above, the Course Committee will notify you regarding your acceptance into the upcoming training course. Applicants will be accepted until the Course is full. A tuition deposit will be required to secure your place in the Course.

CONTACT INFORMATION

MINT

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Montessori Institute of North Texas



Elementary Offerings for ages 6 – 12