

PRIMARY COURSE

The Primary Course prepares adults to understand the development of children from 3 to 6 years old and the special Montessori environments designed to meet their needs. This Course will give interested persons the opportunity to understand the special nature of early childhood and the child's powerful self-constructive forces. Many graduates work as teachers in Primary classes (often called the Children's House or the Casa) or serve in administrative capacities in Montessori schools. Others wish to understand this age group more fully to enhance the work they do in other settings, including parents and caregivers in the home environment.

The child's great task in the foundation years from birth to 6 is one of self-construction. Along with Piaget, Erikson, and others, Dr. Montessori observed that children pass through distinctive stages in their development from birth to maturity. Using her skill as a scientist, physician, neurologist, and anthropologist, she spent many years in observation and experimentation with children from all over the world. The result was her design of appropriate materials and activities for use in educational environments. These environments differ as the children's needs change and grow. Environments at each stage are prepared to help the children move towards their full potential, and to prepare for the next stage of maturation.

In the Montessori prepared environment for 3-6+ year olds, the children's physical, emotional, social, and intellectual needs are met through the inclusion of mixed ages, Montessori materials, and a prepared teacher, or guide. Children are free to proceed at their own pace, and are guided in making choices from among the many learning materials. Each child's individuality is respected and the universal laws of development are honored. The environment becomes a cohesive social unit, as the children participate in the give and take of social life. The adult serves as a loving and nurturing link between the children and this rich learning community. The children's satisfaction, independence, confidence and joy are observable in any Montessori classroom.

TEACHER TRAINER



Jennifer Shields, M.Ed.
Primary Course Trainer
Three-Summer Format

Jennifer Shields has been involved with Montessori for the past 26 years. She holds both the AMI Primary and Assistants to Infancy diplomas. Jennifer earned a B.A. in English Literature from Georgetown University and an M.Ed. from Cleveland State University. During the academic year she trains Primary teachers during the academic year at Loyola University Maryland's Washington Montessori Institute.

Before becoming an AMI teacher trainer 8 years ago, Jennifer worked as a teacher, assistant, and administrator. She is an examiner and consultant for AMI and presents at workshops and conferences locally and worldwide. Jennifer loves observing in classrooms, coaching teachers and teacher trainees, and spreading the insights made by Dr. Montessori, and she has a special interest in encouraging the growth of Montessori programs in the public schools. She also delights in her three young-adult children, and in her wonderful husband. She likes to hike (especially with her German shepherd), read novels and newspapers, and cook vegetarian meals.

*"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."*

María Montessori

PRIMARY TEACHER

TRAINING COURSE

For ages 3-6

Summer Course

Austin, TX

Enrolling for 2018-2020



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COURSE SCHEDULING

Summer Format:

Summer 2018: June 6-July 27, 2018

8:30am-4:30pm, M-F

Summer 2019: June 10-July 26, 2019

8:30am-4:30pm, M-F

Summer 2020: June 8-July 10, 2020

8:30am-4:30pm, M-F

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 1) Complete the MINT application online. If you prefer, you may download the application and mail your completed application to MINT. Please remember to indicate which course you are applying for.
- 2) Have three professional references and any applicable transcripts sent directly to the MINT office.
- 3) Submit the completed application, resume, and two-page autobiography to MINT with a non-refundable \$100 application fee on or before March 16, 2018 or \$150 after March 16, 2018.
- 4) Upon receipt of your application, references, and transcripts, a personal interview will be scheduled. A telephone interview will be conducted when the distance is too far for a personal meeting.

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

COURSE OF STUDY

- Lectures in Montessori theory and demonstration of the use of materials in the areas of practical life, sensorial, language, mathematics, and extensions in culture, including art, music, history, geography, and science.
- Supervised practice sessions with Montessori materials.
- Required reading of selected books by Dr. Maria Montessori.
- Observation and student teaching may be done locally or in the student's home city, in a classroom with an AMI-certified teacher. Ninety (90) hours of observation are required; 120 hours of practice teaching are also required.
- Construction of Material and Theory Reference Books.
- Two Written Examinations and one Oral Examination.

TUITION AND FEES

Application Fee: \$100 (on or before March 16, 2018 or \$150 after March 16, 2018)

Tuition: \$11,175*
(includes nonrefundable deposit of \$500 due within 10 days of acceptance)

Examination Fee: \$500

AMI Membership Fee:

\$75/year for U.S. residents

\$95/year for non-U.S. residents

In addition to tuition and fees, students should budget approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 for books, supplies, and material making.

**An installment payment plan is available for a service fee of \$300 (three installments for the summer course). To inquire about alternative financial arrangements, please contact MINT at info@montessori-mint.org*

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

AMI/USA MES Financial Aid Fund

In honor of Margaret Elizabeth Stephenson, who devoted 40 years of her life to the development of teachers and teacher-trainers, AMI/USA has established a fund to help support students who have been accepted at any AMI training center in the United States. Once accepted into an AMI-recognized training course, individuals should contact AMI/USA directly and request a financial aid packet. For more information, visit AMI/USA's website, www.amiusa.org/financial-aid.

School Sponsorships

Schools in many areas often sponsor qualified individuals to obtain AMI training in return for a period of guaranteed employment with the school. Contact individual schools to inquire about this possibility. AMI/USA or MINT may also be contacted by schools seeking candidates to sponsor for AMI training. Some of these opportunities are listed on the AMI/USA website, www.amiusa.org/financial-aid.

MINT Financial Aid

MINT has resources for financial aid for students who have been admitted to the course. Students who wish to apply for financial aid must submit required documents online to SSS, the third-party agency that evaluates submissions, determines eligibility, and provides MINT with recommendations. For more information, please contact the MINT Financial Aid Committee at info@montessori-mint.org.

