



**ACADEMIC PROGRAM BROCHURE**  
**Montessori Early Childhood**  
**Teacher Education**  
**Ages 2 1/2 through 6**

**MONTESSORI TEACHER ACADEMY**  
32920 Pacific Coast Hwy. Dana Point CA 92629  
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**2021/2022 School Year**

*Date of this edition: December 2020*



**AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY**  
education that transforms lives  
**Affiliated Teacher Education Program**

Accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education



## MISSION STATEMENT

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*Montessori Teacher Academy is dedicated to preparing adult students to meet the child's needs from 2 ½ through 6 years old through Montessori Education.*



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*Dear Prospective Adult Learner,*

*Thank you for your interest in the Montessori Teacher Academy Teacher Education Program. For over twenty years, we have been committed to providing the very best Teacher Preparation and Training in the Orange County area. Our standards of excellence will ensure academic accomplishment and practical classroom management knowledge and communication skills. As you will read in the following information, this course is more than teacher preparation; it is an educational training system that promotes the optimum development of human potential.*

*Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have restructured our courses to provide a hybrid program comprised of in-person and online components.*

*I invite you to read through the enclosed information and to visit our website at [www.montessorita.com](http://www.montessorita.com). If you have any questions or would like to schedule an orientation meeting, I can be reached by phone at 949-240-3344 or via e-mail at [montessorita@gmail.com](mailto:montessorita@gmail.com).*

*We look forward to your participation in our program.*

*Kind regards,*

*Paloma Johnston  
Founder and Director*

## **MONTESORI TEACHER ACADEMY**

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Founded in 1992 in Lake Forest, California, the Montessori Teacher Academy served the local community as the one and only Teacher Education Program in Orange County affiliated with the National Center for Montessori Education (NCME). In September 2003, the Teacher Education Program took residence in Dana Point, California, using Monarch Bay Montessori Academy as its demonstration school. Monarch Bay Montessori Academy houses over one hundred families in the southern California area and serves children at the Early Childhood and Elementary levels (2½ through 12 years). In June 2006, the Montessori Teacher Academy joined the American Montessori Society, AMS, as it united forces with NCME to become the largest Montessori organization globally.

The Montessori Teacher Academy provides a Teacher Education Program of the highest academic standards. Based on the Montessori principles, this training leads to a full understanding and embracing of the Montessori philosophy, curriculum, and methodology. It guides the adult learner in the planning, development, and organization of the ideal classroom, a carefully prepared environment that speaks to the child's natural development of order, concentration, coordination, and independence. The adult learner understands the rationale and sequence of the Montessori materials and becomes well-versed in the knowledge and confidence in presenting these purposeful activities to children. Above all, the Montessori Teacher Academy shares its feelings of love, respect, and admiration for children and its commitment to creating nurturing environments that speak to the child's education.

Montessori Teacher Academy is located at 32920 Pacific Coast Highway in Dana Point, California, in Monarch Bay Plaza, at the corner of Crown Valley and Pacific Coast Highway.

## **OBJECTIVES**

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To provide complete and fully accredited courses in Montessori Teacher Education for children ages, 2 ½ through 6.

This course prepares adults to acquire the insights and skills needed to work with children, meet their individual needs, and plan for their continuity of learning experiences through the Montessori philosophy, theory, methodology, and practical implementation. The adult learner will learn to demonstrate theoretical knowledge and application of research findings in child development and early childhood education. In addition, the adult learner will become part of a school team and learn how to work well with co-workers and with the school's administration, as well as implement child development and early education concepts to other staff, parents, and community.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

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Montessori Teacher Academy is open to all persons who are at least 18 years of age and able to benefit from the instruction offered. It is preferred that the applicant has some previous experience with young children. The adult learner enrolls in one of the three types of credentials depending on current level of education:

### **AMS Early Childhood Credential**

- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited 4-year College/University, verified by official transcripts.

### **AMS Early Childhood Associate Credential**

- High school graduation verified by official transcript.

### **AMS International Early Childhood Credential**

- Bachelor's Degree from an international institution verified by official transcripts.

### **Additional requirements for all Credentials:**

- Completed application.
- Three letters of recommendation (2 professional and 1 personal).
- 350-word essay which states how and when the individual was first introduced to Montessori, shows current basic knowledge of the Montessori Method of Education, explains the reasons for the applicant's desire to enroll in the program, as well as future goals.
- Copies of other credentials (if applicable)
- \$ 250 registration fee (non-refundable).

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

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If interested in enrolling in the program, submit the following items to the Montessori Teacher Academy Office of Admissions at 32920 Pacific Coast Highway, Dana Point, CA 92629.

- Completed application.
- \$250 registration fee (non-refundable).
- 350-word essay.
- Two sets of official transcripts and other credentials (if any).
- Letters of recommendation.

Upon receipt of the complete application, the office will contact the candidate and schedule an appointment to conduct a personal interview, complete enrollment papers, and take an entrance exam (if deemed necessary). Coursework may begin upon completion of the application process. Additional enrollment questions can be directed to Paloma Johnston at 949-240-3344.

All applications are considered without regard to race, sex, orientation, age, disability, and/or religion.

## ***CREDITS/CERTIFICATES OFFERED***

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Successful completion of all requirements awards the adult learner the Montessori Credential for Montessori Early Childhood Education, 2½ through 6 years of age from the American Montessori Society, AMS.

Montessori Teacher Academy graduates receive Early Childhood Education units of college credit (non-transferable) from this institution in the form of an official transcript. These units meet the requirements specified in Title XXII of the California Code of Regulations and are accepted by the State of California, Department of Social Services.

## ***ASSIGNMENTS***

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During the year, the adult learner will be compiling curriculum manuals that will include the areas of Practical Life, Sensorial, Math, Language, Botany, Zoology, History, Geography, Science, Art, Music, Philosophy, Child Development, and Classroom Leadership. Upon completing these manuals, the adult learners will have years of classroom curriculum at their fingertips. The Academy will supply the manuals with extensive lesson plans for the Montessori apparatus and the required information pertinent to each curriculum area; the adult learner will personalize the manuals with pictures and additional information. There will be written assignments and tests throughout the program; the adult learner is responsible for the development of curriculum units and hand-made materials for the classroom.

## ***EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES***

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As graduates of the Montessori Teacher Academy, the adult learners are prepared to take their place in the early childhood education community. Although we cannot guarantee placement, our staff provides information regarding available teaching positions. It has been our experience that our adult learners are in high demand and that they succeed in finding a placement.

## ***MTA LICENSE AND ACCREDITATION***

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Montessori Teacher Academy is approved by the State of California Department of Education, Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (#3100511). Our instructors meet the criteria required by the State of California Department of Education, Private Postsecondary, and Vocational Education. The Montessori Teacher Academy is fully affiliated by the American Montessori Society, AMS, and accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Montessori Education, MACTE.

Besides core instructors, other professionals in education and child development are contracted through the academy to present workshops, seminars, and lectures to our adult learners.

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

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The Sequence of training in the Teacher Education Program is:

**Orientation:** Prior to enrollment adult learners begin with an initial orientation with the training center director. Upon acceptance into the program Section I begins.

### **Section I: Independent Study**

- Part 1: Montessori Principles and Philosophy/Theory
- Part 2: Child Development, Family and Community
- Part 3: Early Childhood Observations in a Montessori classroom

### **Section II: Academic Workshop in the Montessori Program Center**

Lectures on:

- Montessori Principles and Philosophy/Theory
- Child Development / Child, Family and Community
- Classroom Leadership / Environmental Design
- Early Childhood Observation

Presentation on Montessori Materials in:

- Practical Life/Daily Living
- Sensorial
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Cultural Subjects

Discussion of requirements on:

- Observations
- Preparing Albums
- Year's Research Project

### **Section III: Early Childhood Practicum in a Montessori School**

The practicum period allows the adult learner to fully experience what is involved in being a Montessori teacher in the classroom from a practical viewpoint.

### **Section IV: Evaluation**

The adult learners receive evaluations to determine competence in understanding of the Montessori philosophy and principles and use of the Montessori materials.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT**

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Supervised work experience as a student teacher in an approved Montessori school is a part of the required course of study. There are many worksites available in the Orange County area. Most of the work experience sites will offer compensation for your work hours.

## **SCHEDULE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022**

- ORIENTATION MEETING  
Call the Academy to schedule a meeting. **January 19, 2021**
  - WINTER COMPONENT  
Class: Tuesdays from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Selected Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00 pm **February - December 2021**
  - SUMMER COMPONENT  
Class: Daily 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Supervised practice: 11:00 - 12:00 and/or 6:00 - 7:00 **June 7 – July 2, 2021**
  - PRACTICUM COMPONENT (10 months)  
Daily: Working in a Montessori classroom a minimum of 4 hours **March - December 2021**

## ***TUITION, FEES & EXPENSES***

- Registration Fee \$ 250.00 Full payment due with application  
This fee is non-refundable
  - Winter Tuition Fee \$ 1,000.00 Full payment due on January 15, 2021
  - Association and Credential Fee \$ 425.00 Due January 15, 2021
  - Student Tuition Recovery Fund \$ 0.00 (0.00 per each \$1,000 of tuition) Non-refundable
  - Summer Tuition Fee \$ 2,800.00 Full payment due on June 1, 2021
  - Fall Tuition Fee \$ 1,000.00 Full payment due on September 1, 2021
  - Certification Fee \$ 500.00 Due December 1, 2021
  - **TOTAL:** \$ 5,975.00

## **PAYMENTS & SCHOLARSHIP**

Partial Scholarships are available through the American Montessori Society. Check the AMS website at [www.amshq.org](http://www.amshq.org) for guidelines and application information. The deadline for submissions of scholarship applications to AMS is May 1, 2021.

Deferred payment plans are available through the Montessori Teacher Academy.

## ***ADDITIONAL EXPENSES***

The adult learner is responsible for additional expenses of approximately \$300.00 for books, materials and supplies.

# COURSE SYLLABUS

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## MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHY

**Component Hours:** 32 contact hours, 100 hours Independent Study, 3 units equivalent

Through a series of readings, lectures, class discussion, writing assignments, and evaluations this course component will discuss Maria Montessori's life, the beginning of the Montessori Method as developed by Maria Montessori in the early 1900's, its growth over the years, and the specifics of the Montessori Philosophy (i.e., absorbent mind, sensitive periods, logical-mathematical mind, spiritual and moral development of the child, etc.). It will also look at how the Montessori principles, materials, teacher, and environment relate to and respect the developing child from birth through 6 years.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT / CHILD, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY

**Component Hours:** 32 contact hours, 100 hours Independent Study, 3 units equivalent

This section consists of a series of lessons dealing with the development patterns of young children. The major emphasis is on the intellectual and emotional development of children during the first six years of life. Major topics covered in this course component are the writings and philosophies of past and current theorists; current trends in family dynamics; and local community resources.

This section also looks at the interactions among children, family, school, peers, media, and community, with an emphasis on ethnic diversity, social class, gender roles, and their impact on behavior, values, morals, and attitudes.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD OBSERVATION

**Component Hours:** 30 contact hours, 50 hours Independent Study, 3 units equivalent

This course component provides a framework for observation and reflection that promotes connections between theory and practice. The Observation component will help develop skills using direct observation as a primary tool for studying children and as an aid in developing teaching strategies tailored to individual needs and classroom dynamics. This course component requires independent study of a minimum of three 3-hour observations before the Internship begins. Six (6) additional 3-hour observations are completed during the Internship program. Additional hours are spent on observation of individual children. Observation techniques will be studied during the contact hours. Observation reports provide students with the preparation and practice for accurate, objective observation of children.

## PRACTICAL LIFE

**Component Hours:** 32 contact hours, 20+ hours Independent Study, 3 units equivalent

In the Montessori classroom, young children are usually drawn first to the Daily Living /Practical Life area because these materials are most familiar to them. The exercises have objects and materials normally encountered in everyday living experiences such as cleaning, pouring, dressing, and polishing. The exercises of Practical Life/Daily Living fall into five major categories: Care of the Self; Care of the Environment; Grace and Courtesy; Control of Movement; and Food Preparation. Children need to master these fundamental exercises to live comfortably in the real adult world. These activities help the child develop coordination, concentration, a sense of personal independence, and a sense of order. Along with presenting the philosophy and rationale of the Practical Life /Daily Living area, this component covers information and lessons on classroom guidelines, courtesy, control of movement, care of the person, care of the environment, and food.

## SENSORIAL

**Component Hours:** 32 contact hours, 20+ hours Independent Study, 3 units equivalent

The sensorial area consists of materials that educate and refine the children's senses. The child learns to recognize similarities and differences; to discriminate between similar objects; to grade similar objects. This is important for later mastery of tasks involving math and language. The primary purpose of the Sensorial exercises is not that their correct usage be mastered, but rather that "the child train himself to observe; that he be led to make comparisons between objects, to form judgments, to reason and to decide." (Dr. Maria Montessori - Dr. Montessori's Own Handbook)

The Sensorial materials are designed to simplify learning and awareness of the environment by: isolating the difficulty or quality to be discriminated; isolating the senses; encouraging mastery through repetition; possessing self-correction; and presenting an attractive appearance to the child. Children develop the organization and patterning skills that are inherent in math and language concepts.

This course component includes the philosophy and rationale of the Sensorial area and presentation of the sensorial materials aiding the development and refinement of the senses.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD MATHEMATICS

**Component Hours:** 32 contact hours, 20+ hours Independent Study, 3 units equivalent

Montessori believed that a child's mind was mathematical and based on the order and perceptual awareness found in the development of the senses. The acquisition of mathematical principles is seen as developing logically from concrete to abstract and simple to

complex. The child that has mastered the basic concepts involved with the Practical Life and Sensorial materials progresses naturally to the beginning Math activities.

This course component covers the Philosophy and rationale of the Montessori curriculum Math area and presentation of the Montessori math materials that aid in the development of Mathematical concepts and skills: introduction to numbers, counting, the decimal system, the four basic operations of the decimal system, memorization of facts, and fractions.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE ARTS

**Component Hours:** 32 contact hours, 20+ hours Independent Study, 3 units equivalent

Language development is of prime importance in the early childhood years. The Language Arts course component covers the philosophy and rationale of the Language area and its materials. Major topics covered are the materials and exercises that foster receptive and expressive language experiences, visual and auditory perceptual experiences, vocabulary development and enrichment along with reading and writing development: pre-writing exercises: metal insets, small muscles exercises; vocabulary cards, story reading, letter recognition games, sequencing activities, etc.; early writing exercises: tracing and writing individual letters; early reading exercises: sounds of individual letters, moveable alphabet to form words, object or picture classification to isolate individual vowel and consonant sounds; non phonetic words; blends; diagraphs; long vowel patterns; reading as a tool: word definition cards; grammar: noun, verb, adjective; writing simple sentences; writing poetry; and writing descriptions. Students will also learn skills in reading books to children using expression, intonation, inquiry and prediction.

## SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES / ART AND MUSIC

**Component Hours:** 44 contact hours, 20+ hours Independent Study, 3 units equivalent

Along with the four main areas of the Montessori environment there are numerous other materials and activities available to the children. Maria Montessori believed that the classroom was a prepared environment for the development of the whole child. Therefore, areas such as art, music, science, geography, living animals and plants are to be included for the child. The role of the teacher is to expand the child's awareness. With careful preparation many new ideas and materials can be harmonized with the environment.

**Physical and Life Science:** Montessori's theory of the interrelated curriculum joins biology, history, science, and geography as holistic "Cosmic Education". Activities are demonstrated that focus on the characteristics, parts, and classification of plants and animals as well as simple science experiments that children can do independently. Students will become familiar with the Montessori presentations in these subject areas as they relate to contemporary educational thought.

**Social Studies:** Montessori's theory of the interrelated curriculum joins biology, history, science, and geography as holistic "Cosmic Education". History, geography are explored in this course component under the general category of Social Studies. Students will become familiar with the Montessori presentations in these subject areas through study of globes, landforms, puzzle maps, flags, timelines, and the concept of time.

**Art:** The art component links Montessori concepts with the creative arts using materials available in schools. The course component highlights various media, line and spatial concepts along with art history. This program utilizes a process-based approach.

**Music and Movement:** Music and Movement are demonstrated that are appropriate for children ages three to six. The course component emphasizes body awareness and line activities, finger plays, and action games, components of musical form, music appreciation exercises, along with standard Montessori Music materials.

## CLASSROOM LEADERSHIP / ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

**Component Hours:** 34 contact hours, 20 hours Independent Study, 3 units equivalent

This course component covers strategies of classroom leadership that gain the child's confidence, cooperation and attention, thereby helping to develop a pattern of respect for authority. Environmental design techniques that can be applied to the physical environment and their application to classroom management are also discussed.

Classroom Leadership is a vital part of any good teacher Education Course. To be an effective and successful teacher, techniques in communication with the individual child, a small group of children and the entire class must be learned; along with skill at evaluating the roll the environment is playing in the child's behavior must be evaluated.

Beginning classrooms must be brought from the un-normalized condition to normalization by the teacher's careful direction and guidance. Un-normalized children do not spontaneously discover constructive work in the environment but must be drawn to the work by the teacher's careful preparation and planning.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTICUM

**Component Hours:** a minimum of 540 contact hours, 60 hours Independent Study, 6 units equivalent

The function of the Practicum Phase is to provide the trainee with the opportunity for personal and practical experiences in a teaching/learning experience as an Early Childhood Montessori teacher with children ages 2½ through 6 year age. It also provides a period of observation, internalization, and further study, to bring together the theory and practice of Montessori education. This course is intended to allow the student time to experiment with teaching the cosmic lessons, develop new curriculum materials, as well as manage the daily routines of an early childhood classroom. The environment must be prepared with materials and modes of activities that respond to the developmental and varied needs and interests of the Early Childhood student. It is the trainee's responsibility to procure an Early Childhood Practicum teaching placement in an approved Montessori school, which agrees to cooperate with the Montessori Teacher Training Center in all matters relating to the practicum.

## **BASIC TEXTBOOKS FOR THE COURSE**

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Adult Learners are responsible for purchasing the following books, they will be referenced as required reading throughout the course:

- Lillard, Paula Polk - Montessori a Modern Approach - New York: Schocken Books, 1972
- Montessori, Maria - The Absorbent Mind - New York: Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 1984
- Montessori, Maria - The Montessori Method - New York: Schocken Books, 1964
- Montessori, Maria - The Secret of Childhood - New York: Ballantine Books, 1991
- Montessori, Maria - The Discovery of the Child - New York: Ballantine Books, 1990
- Standing, E.M. - Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work - New York: New American Library, Penguin Books, 1984





# AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY

education that transforms lives

## Affiliated Teacher Education Program

### WHY ENROLL IN AN AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM?

*Adults seeking to become Montessori teachers choose to begin their professional journey through AMS Montessori Teacher Education Programs because...*

- AMS is the largest Montessori organization in the world;
- AMS is committed to promoting quality education for all children from birth to 18 years of age;
- AMS offers an authentic, true-to-the-source Montessori teacher education;
- AMS teacher education is based on fundamental Montessori ideas which are backed by years of successful practice;
- AMS has the highest standards of Montessori teacher education as measured by instructional and practicum hours;
- An AMS Montessori teacher is educated in areas including:
  - Human growth and development
  - Montessori theory and philosophy
  - Accurate and appropriate use of Montessori materials
  - An open-ended array of learning materials and activities
  - Observational skills to successfully guide and challenge students
  - Teaching strategies that support and facilitate the unique growth of each individual
  - Leadership skills that foster a nurturing environment that is physically and psychologically supportive of learning
- An AMS teacher credential is recognized as a document which reflects nearly 50 years of research and continuous raising of professional teaching standards;
- An AMS teacher credential assures the public that the teacher is a professional educator, dedicated to working collaboratively with parents, colleagues and all members of the school community;
- Every AMS-affiliated Teacher Education Program is accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, MACTE, Commission, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; and

*... an AMS Montessori teacher is engaged in a rewarding and fulfilling profession.*