

The Montessorian

Remembering Dr Maria Montessori on her Death Anniversary and Birthday



Father
Alexander Montessori



Maria Montessori
August 31, 1870- May 6th 1952



Mother
Renilde Stoppani

Her last wish is engraved on her grave.



For her merits Dr. Montessori was distinguished as an Officer in the Order of Oranje-Nassau in 1950. At that time, Montessori completed her book "The Absorbent Mind" on infant education and cosmic education. She died at the age of 81 in Noordwijk during a short break. She was also buried there.

Her epitaph reads: **"I beg the dear all-powerful children to unite with me for the building of peace in Man and in the World."**

Effective Teaching Techniques in Music

PMA August meeting was a lively and interesting presentation on effective teaching techniques in music by **Fizza Anverali, an IB and music teacher**. She used music to tell stories, used songs to get the participants lively by making them sing after each activity. Fizza showed experiments on leaves and science in a most interesting manner and kept the participants alert by making them join in singing after practical presentations in all events. The Montessori Song written by Gool Behram Rustomjee was sung by teachers of various Montessori school teachers to end the workshop in a befitting manner paying tribute to Dr. Maria Montessori. Hand outs of songs written by Fizza and some Tips and Pointers were given out to the participants. A very lively morning, attended by about 70 members and guests ended with a much needed cool drink of lassi (butter milk) and samosas.



Fizza telling the story of Goldilocks and the three bears



Fizza enjoys The Montessori song by Montessori Directresses

TIPS AND POINTERS

By Fizza Anvarali

Leave your problems outside the school gate.

Have a cheerful attitude

Be Enthusiastic!!

Try to be the *One* person who can bring a change for at least *One* Child!!

Use different types of hands on activities to convey a lesson.

Cater to children with differentiated learning.

Make lessons *FUN!* (You will enjoy yourself too!)

When children are not responding (tired, or bored) sing an action song and refresh them.

Try to connect lessons to activities to clarify the concept.

Be open-minded to the students' ideas and thoughts and reward good behavior, any child that does something *well*, or shows improvement generally.

If a child is not performing as desired, try to find out if there is any underlying issue (may be at home) that is affecting the child. (Especially if there is a change of behavior.)

Use positive feedback frequently.

NEVER LABEL A CHILD!!

A few phrases to help calm your child when she's angry

by GoZen!

Whether your child has a slow-burning fuse or explodes like a firecracker at the slightest provocation, every child can benefit from anger management skills. As parents, we lay the foundation for this skill set by governing our own emotions in the face of an angry outburst.

Next time you are dealing with a tantrum from a toddler, or cold shoulder from a teen, put your best foot forward by trying one of these phrases:

1. Instead of: Stop throwing things!

Try this: When you throw your toys, I think you don't like playing with them. Is that what's going on? This speaker/listener technique is designed to help communicate feelings in a non-confrontational manner. Not only does this keep the lines of communication open, you are modeling how to phrase a situation from your perspective, which in turn gives your child a chance to rephrase events in his (her) perspective.

4. Instead of: Don't you dare hit!

Try this: It's OK to be angry, but I won't let you hit. We need to keep everyone safe. This gets the message firmly across that the emotion is okay, but the action is not. Separating the two will help your child learn to do likewise.

5. Instead of: You're being so difficult!

Try this: This is a tough one, huh? We're going to figure this out together. When children are digging in their heels, it is important to understand why. This phrase reinforces the idea that you are on the same team, working toward the same goal.

7. Instead of: Brush your teeth right now!

Try this: Do you want to brush Elmo's teeth first or yours? For toddlers, tantrums are a way to exert control over their environment. This way, you are offering your toddler a choice, and in turn, some control.

8. Instead of: Eat your food or you will go to bed hungry!

Try this: What can we do to make this food yummy? This places the responsibility of finding a solution back on your child.

9. Instead of: Your room is disgusting! You are grounded unless this gets clean.

Try this: How about we just start cleaning this itty bitty corner of your room? I'll give you a hand. In lieu of focusing on the overwhelming task of cleaning up a huge mess, shift the goal to simply starting. Starting an undesirable task can provide the impetus and momentum to continue.

16. Instead of: You are embarrassing me!

Try this: Let's go somewhere private so we can sort this out. Remember, it's not about you. It's about him and his feelings. By removing both of you from the situation, you are reinforcing the team effort without drawing attention to the behavior.

24. Instead of: Stop saying "No!"

Try this: I hear you saying "No." I understand you do not want this. Let's figure out what we can do differently.

By acknowledging your child's "No," you are de-escalating the situation. Rather than arguing yes/no, change the script to focus on the future and the prospect of a solution.

A version of this article was originally published on [Positive Parents](#).

7 Traits of an Authentic Montessori School: A Commonsense Guide to Choosing the Right Montessori School for Your Child



"I know I want a Montessori school for my daughter, but what if I choose the wrong one? I heard there are amazing Montessori schools, and I also heard there are many imitations and knock-offs! I don't want to make a mistake and then have to look for another school."

I often hear comments like this from parents who start researching Montessori education for their children. There is so much information out there! The more they discover about Montessori, the harder it is to choose a school.

The Sad Truth About Montessori

It's tricky to know exactly what constitutes an authentic Montessori program. There is no copyright on the term "Montessori." That means anyone can open a school and call it "Montessori" without implementing an authentic program.

Why is this important?

A true Montessori program has highly trained teachers, specific learning materials and a carefully planned curriculum that will help your child:

Learn cooperative social skills

Develop self-control

Learn to take initiative

Develop an analytical mindset

And, most importantly, develop a lifelong joy, love and excitement for learning

Do you want these outcomes for your child? If so, you need to find an authentic Montessori program.

7 Traits of an Authentic Montessori School

In my 40 years of experience as a teacher and administrator, I have become an expert at identifying authentic Montessori programs. Here are the seven things I look for to make this determination:

Teacher Training: Good Montessori schools have teachers who were trained by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). Ask to see the teachers' graduate diplomas to verify their training.

Teacher Tenure: Ask how long each teacher and assistant have worked at the school. High turnover in staff will damage your child and to the program itself.

Length of Class Time: Authentic Montessori programs have a three-hour uninterrupted work period each morning. During this three-hour session, your child will receive lessons from his or her teacher and is never interrupted to join all-class exercises over self-chosen activities.

Individualized Curriculum: A true Montessori program supports the individual development of your child. This is very different from a one-size-fits-all curriculum that suggests all children are ready to do the same thing at the same time because they are a particular age. In an authentic Montessori classroom, the curriculum conforms to your child instead of your child having to conform to the curriculum.

Calm and Peaceful Classrooms: A good Montessori classroom is calm and peaceful. You will see many children deep in concentration as they choose an activity and work with it for a long time. Other children are moving in the classroom as they choose an activity and sit down to work, but the movement in the classroom is slow and purposeful.

A Beautiful Classroom Environment: Montessori classroom environments are exquisitely prepared with materials laid out by subject on long, low shelves. The materials will be clean and beautiful and alluring to the child. You will see a lot of materials made of wood and glass and natural fibers. You will rarely, if ever, see plastic. Authentic Montessori classrooms have materials that facilitate independence: dull knives to slice apples, miniature graters to shred cheese, ingredients like flour, salt, sugar, yeast and water to make and bake bread, glass vases and fresh flowers to practice flower arranging, or polish and small applicators to shine brass, silver, wood and mirrors. You will see handmade reading materials—never textbooks. You will also see the most amazing mathematics materials that concretize concepts to facilitate understanding in learning instead of mindless memorization—never worksheets or workbooks. Lastly, you will see the full complement of Montessori materials that allow your child to learn academic subjects in language, mathematics, science, and music.

Multi-Age Classrooms: Authentic Montessori classrooms group children together by three-year age spans. This means a third of the children in a class will be three years old, a third will be four and a third will be five, turning six. A bona-fide Montessori school will ALWAYS have kindergarten included in this age grouping, with three and four-year-old children and will never separate kindergarten children into a different class. The reason? Older kindergarten-age children model respectful behaviors and advanced work that the younger children will eventually one day experience. Younger children certainly benefit from this mentoring—but also the older children, irrespective of personality, are afforded an opportunity of leadership.

How to Use This Information

Knowledge is power. Now that you understand the seven traits of a true, authentic Montessori education, be proactive and ask direct questions when researching schools for your child. Be wary of schools that won't answer these questions directly.

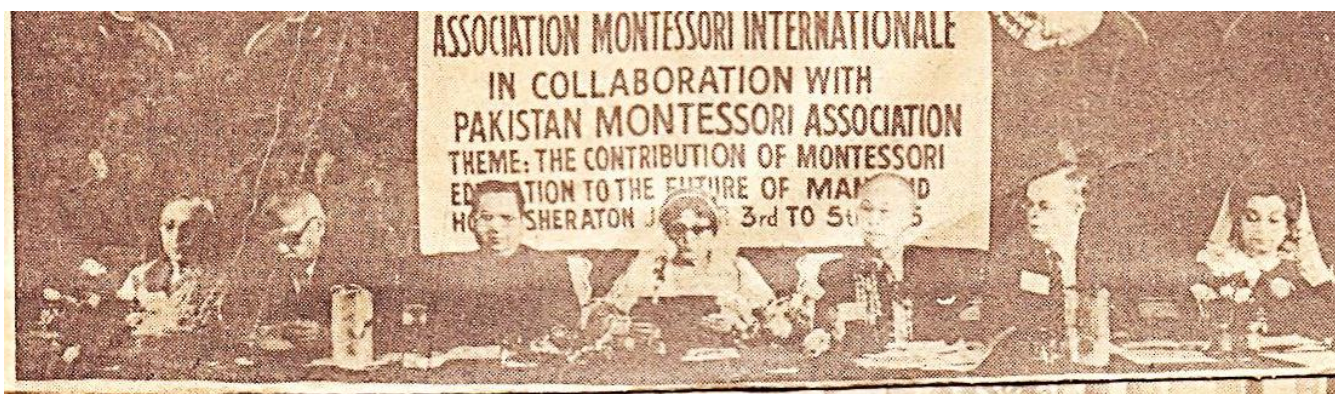
The bottom line: if you want your child to receive the amazing benefits of Montessori, you have to be a discerning parent!

Courtesy : Bergamo Montessori Schools Blog

"If everyone had a Montessori school they wouldn't need me."
Sigmund Freud

20th International Congress Karachi 1985

The Contribution of Montessori Education to the Future of Mankind

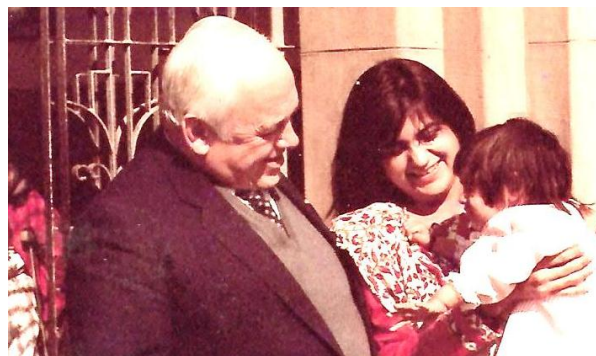


Seated (l to r) are Mrs. Gool Minwala, Mr. A.K. Brohi, Dr. Basharat Jazbi, Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, Mr. G.J. Portielje (President, Association Montessori Internationale), Mr. F. Kelpin, (AMI executive committee member), and Dr. Feroza Ahmad, who spoke at the inaugural session of the 20th International Montessori Congress which opened in Karachi on Thursday.—Dawn photo.

Contributed by Rana Hasnain



L to R Renilde Montessori, Margaret Stephenson, Habiba Thobani
Courtesy: PMA Archives



L to R Mario Jnr, admiring Roohi Gaya Ismail's baby
Contributed by Zohra Gaya



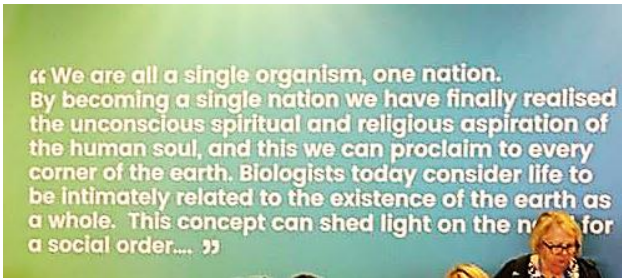
L to R Faiza Thobani, Gool Minwala, Renilde Montessori, Mario Jnr, Habiba Thobani
Courtesy: PMA Archives



Shireen Niazi Gaya, Zohra Gaya, Roohi Gaya Ismail, Shehla Ansari and others with Renilde Montessori and Mario Jnr.

Contributed by Zohra Gaya

28th International Montessori Congress 2017 Prague, 2017 Pathway to Peace: Montessori Education for Social Change



29th International Congress will be held in Bangkok



Announcements

Remembering Annette Haines AMI mourns the death of Annette Haines



AMI Trainer Annette Haines passed away last night, after a short illness. She slipped away from this world quietly and in peace. We feel bereft: a superb pedagogue and fine human being has left us. She leaves us a myriad of valuable memories: she has made us stronger and better. She has trained many teachers, helped prepare new trainers and contributed to AMI in so many ways.

We leave you with a Montessori quote that Annette herself included in every email message she sent: All humans of every race and every country on earth have children, and the child can become the focus of universal interest . . . to create a sphere of action that will enable all mankind to work together."

Maria Montessori

Lynne Lawrence,
Executive Director
on behalf of the AMI Board and Staff
Courtesy: AMI bulletin 23rd July, 2017



AMI 2018 AGM and Montessori Forum - April 2018, Amsterdam.

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