

The Montessori Elementary Course

Feet on the ground
Eyes on the horizon
Heart in the sky



DO YOU WANT TO?

Set up **your own school**
for young children

Make your
school standout

Change the way
you and your family
relate with your child

Improve the learning
level of every child,
in every subject

A one-year programme to be professionally
qualified to work with children

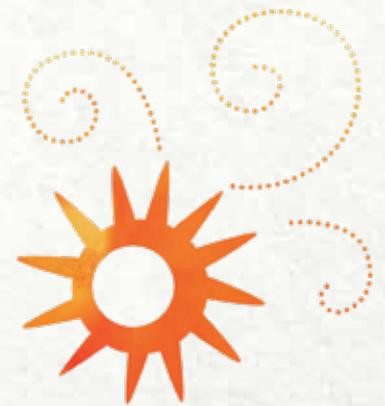
from 6 yrs to 12 yrs, Grades I to VIII – the Elementary School

an opportunity for

- ★ Educators
- ★ Parents
- ★ Teachers
- ★ School Heads

SchoolScape
CENTRE FOR EDUCATORS

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Professional Development of the Educator



Based on the Montessori and democratic principles & practices to work with 6 to 12 year old children; Classes 1 to 8

The Montessori Elementary Course being conducted by SchoolScape is meant mainly for working educators and parents. The programme is being organised to offer an opportunity to set up schools or bring in changes in the classroom systematically and with ease, in tune with current ideas of education world-wide. The participating educators could bring in changes methodically from the next academic year after preparing themselves.

The coordinators and heads of schools could also attend to be able to lead, plan and bring in relevant changes. They could audit the course, which requires a certain percentage of attendance, participate in theory lectures, write assignments and appear for the theory examination. Those who audit do not need to do the practical demonstrations or the examinations.

Children's capabilities in any sphere, be it academics or social skills or emotional maturity are often underestimated. The course would help educators, including parents, ensure that they are effective in helping children to learn and live their life spontaneously...

-  **with understanding**, rather than merely by rote
-  **comprehensively**, rather than in bits and pieces
-  **constructively**, rather than mechanically



The Curriculum

The focus of the elementary educator development programme would be on learning the pedagogy that is intended to be practiced in the schools or education programme or to adopt an approach at home. There would be a heterogeneous mix of -

- Lecture-discussions
- Demonstration of activities
- Experiential learning
- Presentations
- Seminars
- Group reading
- Observation & Practicum
- Written assignments
- Hand skills. Games & Exercises
- Practice sessions
- Material Preparation
- Workshops
- Opportunities for analysis and reflection

These will also be the means to help the participants to discover or enhance their own potential. Skills like singing, art work, leading a discussion, storytelling, writing and reading will also be built in seamlessly into the programme.

The Montessori philosophy, the principles, the practices are woven together and during the course one unravels these strands to bring them together once again in one's life and work situation, whatever that may be. There is always something more to discover...



The Structure



Lectures and the medium of the course will be in English.

Practice Classes are mandatory, during which students work individually and in small groups to learn to handle the learning materials and the procedure of the presentations with the supervision of qualified faculty when required.

Synopses of lectures need to be written out.

A 'Subject Album' containing the illustrations and descriptions of the activities for all the subject areas have to be compiled.

Learning materials for all subjects of human culture for use with children, including geometry, zoology, botany, geography, history are to be practiced with, over the course period.

The written work will have to be submitted at regular intervals during the course.

Candidates who do not submit at the time specified may be refused admission to the final examinations.

Observation of children at work in Montessori Preschool and Elementary environments is an integral part of the course. Maintenance of records, tracking children's development will be discussed.

Observation in schools in suitable locations will be scheduled. The observation and practice days will be planned along with specific schools over two or three phases, in between the scheduled modules and class days.

Periodical Assessments will be part of the course, which will be considered towards the final outcome.



The Syllabus

The Course covers the application of the Montessori pedagogy to the education of children from 6 to 12 years of age, Classes 1 to 8, the Elementary school.

There are four main areas of study:

- Child development and pedagogy
- The philosophy and theory of the Montessori approach
- Practical demonstrations & lectures on subjects - mathematics, geometry, history, geography, life sciences, physical sciences, languages
- Observation, practice teaching and coordinates for managing a class, a school

The work of the child in the Casa, in the preschool, will be connected to the Elementary and to the next stage of development, the Adolescent, to have an overview of the whole child and understand the emphases for each phase.



Recommended Reading

Books by Dr Maria Montessori

- The Discovery of the Child
- The Absorbent Mind
- The Secret of the Childhood
- The Formation of Man
- What you should know about your Child
- Education for a New World
- To Educate the Human Potential
- The Advanced Montessori Method Vol. 1 & Vol. II
- From Childhood to Adolescence
- Education and Peace
- A Child in the Family

Leaflets by Dr Maria Montessori

- The Child
- Reconstruction in Education
- Peace and Education

Articles and papers

- Movement, Activity, Learning and the Construction of Personality by Amukta Mahapatra
- Democracy in the Montessori Classroom by Amukta Mahapatra
- Where the mind is without fear: an article on Neel Bagh & David Horsburgh by Amukta Mahapatra

Books & articles by other authors

- Maria Montessori, Her Life and Work by E. M. Standing
- Education for Human Development: Understanding Montessori by Mario Montessori Jr.
- Gateways to Montessori Parts I and II by A. M. Joosten
- Towards Healthy Humanity by A. M. Joosten
- The Phonetic Reader
- Hindi Word List
- The Secret of the Childhood (in Tamil) by C.N.Vaidheeswaran (Vaithanna)



Material Requirements

Stationery required for the course, textbooks and other individual requirements will have to be procured by the students, including some learning materials.



Eligibility and Expectations of the Participants

Only those who have completed at least 18 years of age, when the Course commences will be admitted.

No exception is made for those below 18 years of age.

The candidate needs to have done his or her general education at least up to Higher Secondary School Certificate, to be given admission. Graduates are preferred.

Knowledge of English is essential. Fluency in English will help the student to understand better as it is the medium of instruction of the course. If participants require translation, help could be arranged.

The Director of the Course may make an exception in special cases at his/her own discretion.

The time schedule of the assignments as and when given needs to be followed. (The programme being intensive, steady work through the period will enable participants to pace the course work and complete assignments on time).

Each individual is expected to contribute to being a member of the collective class. It is the assumption that each respects the other and one works with love, empathy and acceptance. A commitment to practicing the learning in one's work and life would help to bring cohesiveness to one's self, one's interaction with the other and one's role. The personhood of the teacher is important and the attitude to learn, not only about subjects, will be valued and given attention.

Participation in both qualitative and quantitative terms is looked for in the participants.

Observers & Audit of the course

Observers: Heads of schools, trainers, parents and others interested in child welfare and education could attend one or more classes, if interested in a particular subject or topic.

The lectures on Child Development and the theory of the Montessori approach are recommended. They will be as observers during the class, and could have a discussion with the faculty after the session is over.

No certificate of attendance or letter will be given. Permission has to be sought in advance for attending specific classes by phone, email or in writing.

Audit Course: The emphasis will be on the theory and understanding the approach, so that parameters for implementation are appreciated. Theory classes are to be counted for attendance. It is suggested that at least two Subject Albums are also done to have an idea of the detailing of the approach. 60% attendance is required to be able to appear for the theory examination.

Those who want to do an audit of the course need to attend theory sessions, introductions to every subject area and other classes that are mandatory if a certificate of audit is to be given.

Attendance

Students who wish to appear at the final examinations must observe punctuality in attending the lectures and practice classes. Late-comers will be given half-day attendance only.

Less than 90% attendance disqualifies the student from appearing for the examinations. Any case of absence should be notified, in writing, whenever possible beforehand. In case of illness, a medical certificate stating the nature and duration of the illness has to be submitted.

Absence because of being sick or ill and any other absence lasting more than three consecutive weeks will disqualify the student from the examination and any absence; even because of illness will be included among the admissible 10%.

Those doing the audit will need to have 60% attendance.

Holidays

National and international public holidays declared by the Government of India will be considered for declaring a holiday.

Examinations

The examinations consist of two parts, one written and one practical. The written part will consist of two papers, one on Child Development and Pedagogy and the other on the Theory of the Montessori Approach; both papers also contain a number of questions dealing with the practical application.

Students are eligible for admission to the Examinations, which have to be passed successfully in order to obtain the diploma, only if -

- Their attendance at all classes was satisfactory.
- Their written and other work during the course was handed in punctually and proved satisfactory.
- Their performance at the periodic tests over the modules was satisfactory.
- They have paid the examination fee, to indicate that they are willing to appear for the final exam.

- They have cleared all dues.

Those who have registered and fail to appear on the scheduled date and at the appointed time for these examinations or any of their parts, for a valid reason, may be given an opportunity to appear at examinations held thereafter, but they will have to pay the full examination fee once more and may also be required to attend additional classes for which a fee will be charged. They will have to apply for this in writing latest on the day scheduled for their appearance with acceptable explanation of their failure to appear as scheduled; medical grounds will have to be attested by a regular medical certificate.

Those who are declared not successful have to undergo another full course of training. Those who are granted permission to appear for a re-examination in one of the two parts have to pay a second examination fee, also a class fee, if they are required to attend additional classes. If they fail in the re-examination they will have to undergo another full course of training, if the diploma is to be awarded.



Diploma

The diploma will be awarded to the candidate who has successfully passed the examination and completed all prescribed requirements. This diploma qualifies the holder to apply the Montessori pedagogy to the education of children between 6 years to 12 years of age, but not that of children under 6 years, or over 12 years of age, nor to impart training in the Montessori pedagogy to adults in any form. It also entitles the holder to use the name "Montessori" for the group of children in his/her charge provided it is fully equipped, directed and organised, according to the requirements of the Montessori principles as elaborated during the course of training.

Those doing the audit will be awarded a certificate for completion of the audit course.

The diploma and certificate will be awarded by SchoolScape, centre for educators.

Please note that the diploma will be handed over ONLY to the STUDENT and to no other person or institution.



Attendance Certificate



Students who do not appear at the final examinations will be awarded an attendance certificate provided their attendance is satisfactory; so also those who are doing the audit course.

The attendance certificates do not qualify the holders to apply the Montessori pedagogy to the education of children nor do they entitle the holders to the use of the name "Montessori" nor to impart training in the Montessori pedagogy to adults in any form.





Admission Procedure

- ★ Online submission of the application form with the application fee
- ★ Submit as soon as possible and before the course begins, the following:
 - A hand-written life-sketch in English, with a focus on the childhood years, about 500 words or more written as spontaneously as possible
 - Two recent passport-size photographs, with the name and phone number on the reverse
 - A complete bio with details of school, college and further studies and/or activities
 - All educational and other details should be supported with mark sheets and copies of documents.
 - A medical certificate of good health and fitness is also to be given.
- ★ An interview by phone or in person will be held after the application on a date notified to those who register.
- ★ The fee to be paid as per the due date given

Applications filled incompletely will NOT be considered. Applications should reach within the stipulated time.

The Application fee has to be remitted along with the application form; no application will be considered unless the fee has been received.

The tuition fee is payable in advance.

Refund

Refund of the registration fee and other fees will NOT be made if a registered student withdraws once the course has started or has to discontinue for any reason.





Amukta Mahapatra

Director, the Montessori Elementary Course
 Founder, SchoolScape, centre for educators



Initiated, encouraged and brought the Montessori Elementary Courses to India from 2008 onwards.

She has been a mentor, director and faculty member for courses held in Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Pollachi, Tirupur

First Principal, **Abacus Montessori School**, Chennai

Teacher, **The School, Krishnamurti Foundation India**, Madras

Independent Consultant to Dept of Education, Tamil Nadu, for the Professional Development training of the DIET faculty, a harbinger to the ABL programme in Tamil Nadu

Consultant, **UNICEF** India, for development of a Quality Package for implementation in government schools

Field officer, education section of ActionAid, India, did an evaluation of a large project, initiated the setting up of resource schools, working with field projects, where she helped them to focus and improve the quality of education reaching the children under their care

She worked and trained under **C.N.Vaidheeswaran, Vaithanna** as he was known, in a House of Children run by him in Anaimalai, TN immediately after her Montessori Primary training.

Vaithanna had trained under Dr. Maria Montessori in Kodaikanal and was one of the pioneer teachers who set up Rishi Valley School.

She was introduced to the advanced materials, for the 6 to 12 year-old child and worked with these at the school.

She did the training to work with the elementary age-group, under **Prof Rajendra Gupta, Indian Institute of Montessori Studies** in Bangalore.

She trained with the well-known educationist, **David Horsburgh at Neel Bagh**, in Kolar dist, Karnataka for one and a half years.. She studied educational thought and practice of different educationists and a variety of skills while at Neel Bagh, while teaching children at all levels.

Amukta Mahapatra has a Montessori Primary diploma (for working with 3 to 6 year old children) from **Indian Montessori Training Courses, AMI** (under **A.M Joosten**, in Ahmedabad, India)

She is associated with the **International Democratic Education Conference**, a movement for democratic practices in schools, homes and organisations



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