



## The Montessori Preprimary Course

Early Childhood Care and Education for Preschool educators based on Montessori principles and practices

To work with 2 ½ to 6-year-old children; LKG to Class 1

The Montessori Preprimary Course being conducted by SchoolScape, centre for educators is aimed at working teachers, educators and parents. The programme is being organised to give schools an opportunity to set up schools or bring in changes in the classroom systematically and easily in tune with the current ideas of education, discussed elaborately in the NEP 2020 (New Education Policy) brought out by the Government of India in alignment with international practices for this age group.

With the Course scheduled to start from the mid-year it would prepare the participating educators to bring in changes from the next academic year. The Montessori programme for this age group makes it possible for schools and professionals to decide how the principles and practices could be incorporated efficiently and effectively even into an already running school.

The course would help teachers ensure that they are effective in helping children to learn

- with respect for the child, rather than sympathy or patronizing
- with clarity and understanding, rather than mechanically by rote
- to become independent and successful, rather than curb their development

The teacher would be able to see the evidence of his or her efforts in a short time as children embrace learning along with a feeling of responsibility and a psycho-social development.

The training programme will benefit the child, the parent and the professional educator, while raising the composite learning levels of the class and school.



India being a democratic country, with schools being the social unit for rearing of children to become citizens of the country and the global community, children need to experience democracy in their growing years, so that they and the country thereby becomes truly democratic. Participants would be exposed to democratic processes and culture that will deepen the shared understanding of what democracy means in a school or in society and for young children too.

Can we create school and home environments where children can learn constructively and, in the process, build their personalities as they interact with the world?

The Montessori Preprimary Course addresses these issues and offers a possible path for the educators at home and in school. Often, focusing on the child, the teacher becomes the 'forgotten citizen'. The teacher's personhood and professional development is critical to take our school system to the next level of effectiveness.

Life and learning and learning and life could go hand in hand for the child and for the educator.

### **Schedule**

The classes will be held for two days a week, usually in the afternoons, convenient for working teachers, parents and for schools.

The timings would be from 2:00 PM. to 4:30 PM, on Wednesday and Thursday with practice sessions happening on Saturday either online or at the centre.

### **The Curriculum**

The focus of the ECCE course would be on learning the pedagogy that is intended to be practiced in the schools or education programmes. There would be a heterogeneous mix of -

- Lecture-discussions
- Demonstration of activities

- Experiential learning
- Presentations
- Seminars
- Group reading
- Observation & Practice teaching
- Written assignments
- Games & exercises
- Practice sessions
- Material Preparation
- Opportunities for analysis and reflection

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

### **The Syllabus**

The Course covers the application of the Montessori pedagogy to the education of children from 2½ to 6 years of age.

There are four main sections:

- Child Development
- The Theory of the Montessori approach
- Practical Demonstration-Lectures of different domains
- Observation and practice teaching

This includes demonstration and explanation of the Montessori Apparatus and all activities and exercise with these learning materials.

## **Details:**

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

Child Development looks at stages of a child from birth to adulthood, with a focus on the birth to the six-year-old child. Within this framework, milestones of a child, while seeing him/her as the constructor of his/her own knowledge and personhood.

An orientation to embryology helps also in understanding the needs of the child after birth. It addresses the special powers that a child is endowed with and the critical, sensitive periods during this development. A glimpse of the second plane (6 years to 12 years) and to the adolescent (12 to 18 years) will also be shared to see the continuity of a child's development.

The Course gives the students a vision of the requirements for a specially prepared environment and the spiritual preparation of the adult to be able to guide and support children.

### **THE THEORY OF THE MONTESSORI APPROACH**

The Theory lectures focus on the origin and principles of the Montessori approach. Some of the important topics being:

- The role and attitude of the adult
- The function of the "prepared environment"
- The learning materials, seen as a means of development rather than only as didactic materials for the teacher

All the lectures converge around the central concept of education as an assistance to life and the child as the lever for human evolution.

The salient features of setting up of a House of Children, the right kind of environment for this age group; its organization and administration are delineated.

## **PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS & LECTURES**

These lectures deal with the scientific nature and presentation of the means of development (apparatus) offered to children from 2½ to 6 years of age in a Montessori House of Children.

They are as follows:

- Exercises of Practical Life deals with the acquisition of co-ordination of movement and practical independence in daily life and social awareness.
- Sensorial activities serve as a means of intelligent exploration of the environment leading to cognitive development.
- Language activities focus on the development of spoken language leading to acquisition of writing and reading skills.
- Mathematical activities help in the development of the mathematical mind, including the four operations in arithmetic within the framework of the decimal system, going up to thousands.
- Other areas of human culture, from gardening to zoology to history and geography.

While dealing with the spontaneous exploration of written language and its historical and psychological background, it will be made clear how the young child is one of the most vital contributors to the development of human culture.

## **COURSE WORK**

The course will consist of:

**Lectures:** These will be delivered in English.

**Practice Classes:** Where students, in smaller groups, practice to acquire the technique of the presentations. These are held once a week.

**Written work:** Submitted online

**Students are required to make:** Synopses of the lectures



A Material Album or File containing the illustrations with descriptions of the various apparatus, the technique of the demonstration, exercises, their aims and other specifications need to be included. Notes of the presentations are shared with the students. Students must interpolate their class notes and include illustrations.

Material Preparation Nomenclature cards for items of human culture: Geometry, Zoology Botany, Geography, and any other teacher-made material required for a House of Children to be made. Some of the samples will be given, while for some a fee will be charged for the soft/hard copies.

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

Candidates who do not submit assignments regularly may be refused admission to the final examinations.

**Observation:** of children in Montessori Houses of Children or Casa environments in schools needs to be done.

Observation days in schools in will be scheduled on days other than on class days. The observation and practice teaching days will be planned along with schools over two or three phases.

### **Assessments and Examination**

There will be a mid-term review and a final examination, in theory and the practical examinations will be done as viva voce, also conducted online.

Some assessments may be given spontaneously for a quick review or feedback. Individual conferences will be held to review the work done, periodically.

## STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

Stationery required for the course, textbooks and other individual requirements will have to be procured by the students. Essential items required:

- Art papers in 5-6 colours
- Cutter/blade/ pair of scissors of 2-3 kinds
- Gum, paste, glue
- Pencil, eraser, instrument box, metal scale
- Files, loose papers, hole guards, bookmarks
- Colour pencils, Poster paints
- Stapler, punching machine

Being an online course, a laptop will be effective for attending classes and submitting work.

The above list is given for guidance only; special instructions will be given during the Course.

## Recommended Reading

### A. Works by Dr. Maria Montessori

1. The Discovery of the Child
2. The Absorbent Mind
3. The Secret of the Childhood (New edition 1982)
4. The Formation of Man
5. What you should know about your Child
6. Education for a New World
7. To Educate the Human Potential
8. The Advanced Montessori Method Vol. 1, Vol. II
9. From Childhood to Adolescence
10. Education and Peace
11. A Child in the Family

**B. Leaflets by Dr. Maria Montessori**

1. The Child
2. Reconstruction in Education
3. Peace and Education

**C. Books by other Authors**

1. Maria Montessori, her life and work by E. M. Standing
2. Education for Human Development: Understanding Montessori by Mario Montessori Jr.

**D. Articles and papers**

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





## **Eligibility and Expectations of the Participants**

Only those who have completed at least 18 years of age, when the Course commences and possess at least a Higher Secondary School Certificate can be admitted.

Graduates are preferred.

Fluency in English will help the student to understand better as it is the medium of instruction for the course.

The Director of the Course may make an exception in special cases at his/her own discretion. If, participants require translation, a person could be appointed, and the costs shared among the trainees who opt for it.

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

The time schedule of the assignments as and when given need 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.

Everyone 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 with biases and judgements kept at bay.

A commitment to practicing the learning in one's work and life would help to bring cohesiveness to oneself, 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.



## **Attendance & Punctuality**

Participation in both qualitative and quantitative terms is looked for in the participants, with 90% attendance being the requirement for awarding the diploma. If participants are late or leave early, they will be marked as absent for half a day. The faculty is to be informed if leave must be taken on any day.

Ninety percent attendance is required. 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 must be submitted.

Sick-leave 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%.

## **Holidays**

A maximum of ten public holidays declared by the Government of India, will be observed

## **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 2½ and 6 years of age, but not that of children over six years of age, or any other age group, nor to impart training in the Montessori Method 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 approach as set forth during the course of training. The diploma will be awarded by SchoolScape. They will be signed by the Director of Please note that the diploma will be handed over to the student unless the institution sponsoring the student gives in writing that it is to be otherwise.

## **AUDIT OF THE COURSE & OBSERVERS**

Heads of schools, trainers, parents and others interested in child rights, welfare and education could attend one or more number of classes if interested in a particular subject or topic. The lectures on Child Psychology and the Theory of the Montessori Method are recommended

Those who want to attend will be observers during the class, and if they want to, could have a discussion with the faculty after the session is over.

- The per session fee will be Rs 200/-
- No certificate of attendance or any letter will be given.
- Permission must be sought in advance for attending specific classes by phone, email or in writing.

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 for auditing is to be given.



Attendance will be marked for those wanting to do the audit. 60% attendance is required for an audit certificate to be given along with theory submissions.

## **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 follow only the lectures in the Theory and Psychology of the Montessori Method doing the audit course.

These attendance certificates do not qualify the holders to apply the Montessori Method to the education of children nor do they entitle the holders to the use neither of the name “Montessori” nor to impart training in the Montessori Method to adults in any form.

## **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 one on the Theory of the Montessori Approach; both papers also contain a few questions dealing with the practical application of the method.

The practical and viva voce include a demonstration of the use of the apparatus in each of the five areas and questions relating to these.

NOTE: Students are eligible for admission to the Examinations (which must be passed successfully 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 during the term was satisfactory.
- They have cleared all dues.

Those who have 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 full 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 must 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, to receive the diploma.



## **SchoolScape, centre for educators**

A centre for educators, SchoolScape focuses on the development of the teacher and other support cadres to enable schools, organizations and education departments to enhance the quality of learning in the classroom. The centre promotes quality education based on democratic principles, practices and processes.

A sample of assignments, done by SchoolScape

- Learning Outcomes Study of Class 3 and 4 children in government primary schools in two districts of U.P and one region in Gujarat, for CARE, an international organization.
- Evaluation of a national level education resource centre for Early Childhood Education, for ICICI.
- Internal Evaluation Report for IBM along with NCIS, on CSR interventions implemented in Chennai Corporation Schools and in Andhra Pradesh Residential Schools.
- Base year study for ABL (Activity-based Learning), before and at the end of the year it was up-scaled to cover all the approx. 37,000 elementary schools in the state. Report titled 'Effectiveness of ABL Programme under SSA, TN' 2007-'08.

SchoolScape hosted in December 2004, the 12th International Democratic Education Conference (IDEC) for ten days at Bhubaneswar, Orissa in which more than 350 delegates from 18 countries participated including about 100 children.

## The Faculty



### **Associate Director- Montessori Preprimary**

**Gracy Kingsley** is a Post Graduate MBA (HR). She completed her diploma in Montessori Primary teacher training from IMTC-Chennai in 2003 and later completed the Montessori Elementary teacher training from Sharanalaya Montessori School in 2016. She holds a B.Ed and Diploma in Special Education (Autism). She underwent the Training of Trainers programme with SchoolScape.

Gracy has extensive experience working with children since 2003 in Sharanalaya Montessori School, Chennai at both the Preschool and Elementary levels. She started as a Montessori teacher and then became the Principal of the school, which she held for seven years till 2020. She has experience in training and mentoring teachers during this time, while she set up and managed the school.

Looking for new ways of working in the field, with autonomy and to challenge herself, she joined SchoolScape.



### **Coordinator - Preprimary**

**Khushbu Gupta** is a trained Montessori Educator from AMI – RTI Mumbai. She has had a background in banking, is a mother of a pre-teen, a storyteller, and has participated in various children’s events by organising and performing puppet shows and book reading sessions. She has always found the world of children to be vastly fascinating and intriguing.

What thoughts do they have?

Why do their perspectives differ so much?

During her journey as an Educator, she realised that it’s not just helping her find some of the answers to these questions; but it’s also increasing her self-awareness and providing opportunities for self-discovery.

She has 4 years of experience working in the Casa and elementary environment.

She firmly thinks that Montessori is not only a method of education but also a means of nurturing life that can benefit the whole of humanity.





**Founder – Director**

**Amukta Mahapatra**, founder of SchoolScape has been associated with the field of school education since many decades. She has worked with small, independent schools and also developed programmes that have been implemented by the education departments across a state or taken to many states in India. Wherever she has worked, she has fought for the child’s right to live and learn spontaneously.

She started her teaching career at the The School K.F.I, run by the Krishnamurti Foundation India in Chennai.

Later, as the first principal of Abacus Montessori School in Chennai, she enabled Montessori practices from preschool to high school, to be seen from a contemporary perspective.

While working with UNICEF, she helped to develop a Quality Package to be implemented in government schools across ten states.

She conducted a programme called the Professional Development of Teacher Educators for the faculty of the DIETs (District Institutes for Education and Training) in Tamil Nadu. The education department took the evolved modules forward and trained 200,000 elementary teachers across



the state. This was the harbinger for the ABL programme for primary schools to be developed and later implemented in all 37,500 elementary schools in the state.

She has organised many national and international conferences and is the initiating force for the movement of democratic education in India, under the banner of IDEC and InDEC. She has participated and presented papers at national and international seminars.

She has published articles and papers; her work has been mentioned in books and reports on best practices to be taken forward.

Member of the Task Force for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India (2023). Karnataka Task Force (2024). Life member, Association Montessori Internationale. Life member, Crafts Council of India.

## ADMISSION PROCEDURE

- Submit the application through the website -  
<https://www.schoolscape.org/event/montessori-preprimary-course-2025/>
- After applying, please fill the admission form received through automatic email.
- Once we receive your admission form, an interview by phone or online will be held.

### Documents to be shared after the interview:

- Please share a complete resume with details of your school, college and further studies after the admission interview.
- All educational and other details should be supported with attested copies of documents
- A write-up on “My Childhood”, written as spontaneously as possible, should be submitted in one’s own handwriting
- A soft copy of passport size photograph
- A medical certificate of good health and fitness is also to be given.
- The Course fee to be paid as per due date given

## FEES

The application fee must be done with the application form; no application will be considered unless the fee has been received. The tuition fee is payable in advance, after admission has been granted.

Application Fee: Rs 5000/-

Course Fee: 67,800/-

The fee is non-refundable, if for any reason the participant is not able to complete the course. However, if the participant withdraws within 7 days of the commencement of the course, 50% of the full course fee paid will be returned.



Fee payable to:

Name : SchoolScape Centre for Educators

A/c Number : 50200053823589

IFSCode : HDFC0000076

Branch : M.G.Road, Bangalore 560 001

To be paid by Cheque, Demand Draft or Bank Transfer. Details of payment to be submitted immediately.

Study material and stationery costs are to be paid as and when given.