

## MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY COURSE



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

# SchoolScape

CENTRE FOR EDUCATORS



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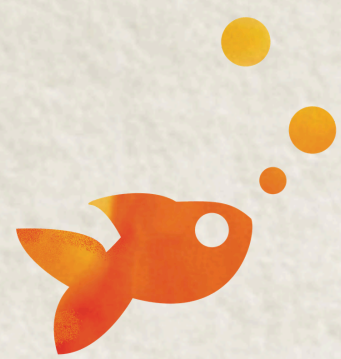
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# DO YOU WANT TO

**Pursue a career as an educator**  
in the field of Montessori  
Education?

**Homeschool your child?**

**Set up your school for**  
children aged 6 to 12 years?

Make your  
**school stand out?**

Change the way you  
**relate with your child?**



If you answered yes to any of these, the SchoolScape Montessori Elementary Course is for you. The **thirteen-month live, online programme** is designed for

- ★ Educators
- ★ Parents
- ★ School Heads
- ★ Homeschoolers

and is rooted in the principles of Montessori and Democratic education. This programme nurtures the skills and understanding needed to guide children aged 6 to 12 (Grades 1 to 8) with care, confidence, and clarity.

Trusted by the **alumni and 100+ Montessori schools** across India and globally for providing quality education services, SchoolScape's Montessori Elementary course is **the only online course with live classes**, focussed on personalized sessions, with the faculty maintaining a one-on-one connect with students on a regular basis.

# The Montessori Elementary Course


Based on **Montessori principles** and enriched with progressive educational ideas from around the world, the SchoolScape Montessori Elementary Course equips **educators, school heads, and parents** to set up schools and transform their classrooms immediately and effectively. Educators can begin making meaningful, methodical changes in their practice from the following term or academic year.

School heads and coordinators may choose the **audit course** - attending theory sessions, submitting assignments, and taking part in discussions - without the requirement of practical demonstrations, teaching practice, or final examinations.

As a **parent**, the **diploma course** transforms the way you relate to your child, helping you foster independence, intelligence, and mutual respect. If you're a **homeschooling** (or as we prefer to say, HomeLearning) parent, it offers practical tools and deep insights to make learning joyful, structured, while being flexible, and aligned with your child's natural development.

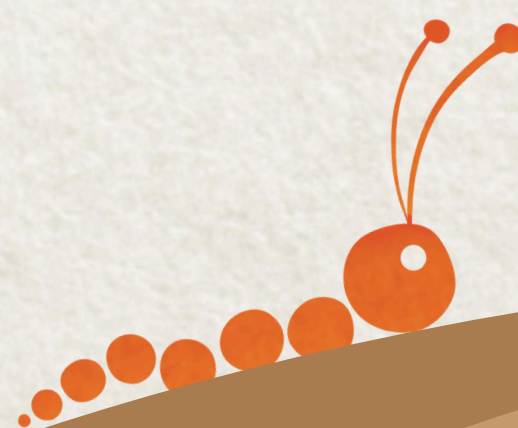
At the heart of the course is a **deep respect for the child**. Too often, we underestimate a child's potential – in thought, in feeling, in action. The course invites educators, including parents, to ensure that they are effective in helping children to learn and live their lives spontaneously and simultaneously as they...

 **learn with understanding, rather than merely by rote**

 **learn comprehensively, rather than in fragments**

 **learn constructively, rather than mechanically**

It is an invitation to walk beside the child – gently, wisely, and with wonder.



# The Curriculum

The SchoolScape Montessori Elementary Course focuses on helping participants learn and embody the pedagogy they wish to introduce in schools, educational spaces, or homes.

The course offers a rich and varied blend of experiences, including:

- Lecture-discussions
- Demonstrations of activities
- Experiential learning
- Student presentations and seminars
- Group reading and discussions
- Observation and practicum
- Written assignments
- Games and exercises
- Supervised practice sessions
- Material preparation
- Workshops for handskills
- Opportunities for reflection and analysis

These experiences are designed not only to build professional capacity, but also to help each participant discover and nurture their own potential. Skills such as storytelling, singing, art & craft, writing, reading to share, and leading conversations are gently woven into the rhythm of the programme.

The Montessori philosophy, its principles and practices, are explored like threads in a tapestry - gradually unravelled, examined, and rewoven into each participant's personal and professional life.

There is always more to discover - in the world, in the child, and in ourselves. The course is not the end or the ultimate goal...it is the beginning...



# The Structure

**The course is conducted in English**, with lectures forming a core component of the learning process. Those not fluent in the language can use technical help or organise a translator, which SchoolScape can facilitate or help to organise.

**Practice classes are mandatory**, where participants work individually and in small groups, under the guidance of the experienced faculty, to become familiar with learning materials and presentation techniques.

Participants are expected to:



write synopses of lectures



compile a comprehensive *Subject Album* containing illustrations and descriptions of activities across all subject areas

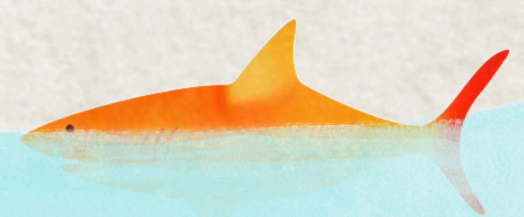


submit written assignments at regular intervals.

Throughout the course, participants will engage with learning materials across all subjects of human culture - including geometry, zoology, botany, geography, history, language, and mathematics - as they are intended for use with children.

**Observation** of children is an integral part of the course. This includes time spent in Montessori Houses of Children, Preprimary, and Elementary environments, with guidance on maintaining records and understanding children's developmental progress. Observations will be scheduled in collaboration with selected schools, typically in two or three phases between the classes of the Course.

Assessments will take place periodically in different ways and will contribute to the final outcome of the course.



# The Structure

These are the main areas of study:

- 1 Child development and pedagogy
- 2 The philosophy and theory of the Montessori approach
- 3 Practical demonstrations and lectures across subjects — including mathematics, geometry, history, geography, life sciences, physical sciences, and language
- 4 Observation, practice teaching, and guidance on managing a classroom or school environment
- 5 Exposure to skills relevant to this age group—such as singing, handwork, calligraphy, and theatre—will be an integral part of the course. These experiences not only enrich the overall learning journey but also broaden the artistic and practical abilities essential for teaching at the Elementary level.

The child's work in the Casa, or preschool, will be connected to the Elementary stage and further to adolescence, offering a complete view of the child's development and the distinct needs at each phase.



# Admission Procedure

## **Step 1: Online Application:**

Submit the completed online application form along with the application fee by the specified deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

## **Step 2: Admission Form:**

Submit the completed Admission form prior to the interview.

## **Step 3: Online Interview:**

An online interview will be scheduled. The date will be notified by email to the applicants.

## **Step 4: Admission Confirmation:**

Upon the successful interview, an admission confirmation email will be sent, including the course fee invoice and additional documents required to finalize the admission process.

## **Step 5: Completion of Admission process:**

The required documents and the fee to be paid within the stipulated time.

## **Documents Required Upon Admission**

- A handwritten life-sketch (approximately 500 words or more) focusing on childhood years, written as spontaneously as possible, in English.
- Two recent passport-size photographs.
- A complete resume.
- Copies of mark sheets and certificates supporting all educational and other relevant qualifications.
- A medical certificate confirming good health and fitness.

## **Fee Payment**

- The application fee must be paid at the time of application through the website payment gateway; no application will be processed unless the fee has been received.
- The course fee is payable in advance and must be settled by the due date indicated in the confirmation email.

# Admission Procedure

## Eligibility and Expectations

- Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time the course commences. No exceptions will be made for those under 18.
- The applicant should have completed general education at least up to the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC). Graduates are preferred.
- Proficiency in English is recommended, as it is the medium of instruction. Fluency in English will enhance comprehension, though translation assistance can be arranged if necessary.

The Director of the Course may grant exceptions in special cases at their discretion.

## Participant Expectations

- All participants are expected to contribute actively to the collective learning environment, fostering mutual respect, empathy, and acceptance
- A commitment to practicing the learnings in both professional and personal life is essential for cohesion within the group and the broader Montessori community
- The personal development and attitude toward learning are as important as subject knowledge and will be valued and nurtured throughout the course.



# Material Requirements

Participants are required to procure their own stationery, recommended books, and selected learning materials to support their journey through the course.

As hands-on experience lies at the heart of Montessori practice, access to Montessori materials is essential. These may be used at the SchoolScape Centre, or, where possible, support of a school in the student's neighbourhood could be requested, to allow access at a mutually convenient time.

Printable and digital resources to enrich learning and support material preparation will be shared at appropriate stages throughout the course.

A detailed list of teacher-made materials required for coursework, along with the invoice, will be provided one month after the course begins. SchoolScape will guide participants in creating and preparing these learning materials for use throughout the course and within any elementary learning programme setting.

As this is a live, online course, participants will need a reliable high-speed internet connection and a laptop to attend online sessions and manage coursework through the learning management portal. During practice sessions, an additional device - such as a phone or webcam - along with a tripod stand, will be needed to focus on the materials while giving presentations.



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# Course Details

SchoolScape, Centre for Educators, offers three options for the course:

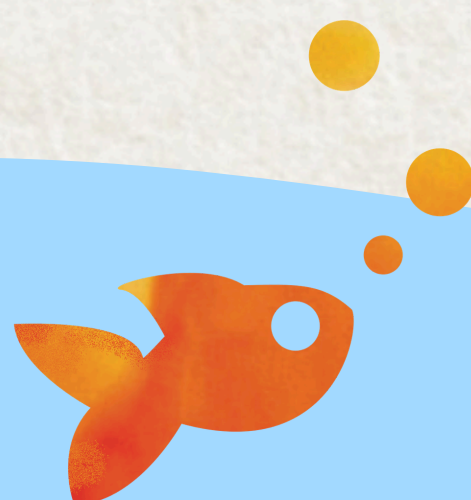
1. **Diploma**
  2. **Assistant Teacher Certificate**
  3. **Audit**
- 

## Diploma Course

Diploma holders are qualified to **work directly with children** in a Montessori environment and to apply Montessori pedagogy in the education of children aged 6 to 12 years in any setting - at home, in an NGO learning programme or a school. This qualification does not extend to working with children under 6 or over 12 years of age, nor does it permit the holder to train adults in Montessori principles. The Diploma also grants the **right to use the name "Montessori"** for the group of children under their care, provided the environment is fully equipped, directed, and organised in accordance with Montessori practices, as outlined during the course.

### ***Course Requirements:***

- Minimum 90% attendance
- Completion and submission of all subject albums and associated assignments: Geography, History, Mathematics, Geometry, Botany, Zoology, Language, and Montessori Theory
- Three rounds of observation, including teaching practice at an associate school
- Completion of practice hours
- Completion of theory and practical examinations.



# Course Details

## **Assistant Teacher Certificate Course**

An Assistant Teacher Certificate allows adult students to take on a supportive role in the classroom, working under the supervision of a qualified Diploma holder; or a parent interested to learn and appreciate the fundamentals of the pedagogy .

It may also be particularly suitable for adults with learning difficulties or for those who prefer to contribute in an assisting capacity rather than lead.

Participants who do not appear for the final examinations may be awarded an Assistant Teacher Certificate, provided their attendance is satisfactory. This also applies to those enrolled in the Audit course.

Assistant Teacher Certificates, however, do not qualify holders to work independently in charge of children in a Montessori school, nor do they entitle holders to use the name "Montessori" or to train adults in the Montessori method.

### ***Course Requirements:***

- Minimum 75% attendance
- Completion and submission of two Subject albums, to be chosen from the subjects listed and the Montessori Theory album along with associated assignments to be attempted and submitted.
- Three rounds of observation at an associate school
- Completion of practice hours
- Appear for the practical and the theory examinations



# Course Details

## Audit Course

The Audit course is intended for individuals preparing for leadership or administrative roles-such as school heads, coordinators, or others supporting Montessori environments. It offers a comprehensive understanding of the Montessori Elementary approach, the prepared environment, and the role of the adult, with a focus on theory and observation. However, it does not prepare participants for direct work with children or qualify them to train others in Montessori pedagogy.

### ***Course Requirements:***

- Minimum 60% attendance
- Completion and submission of two subject albums, to be chosen from the subjects listed and the Montessori Theory album, along with associated assignments
- Two rounds of observation at an associate school
- Completion of the theory examination



# Course Guidelines and Policies

## Meeting Course Requirements

To support a consistent and meaningful learning experience, all assignments, subject albums, and course requirements must be completed and submitted within the timelines communicated during the course.

Timely submission of written assignments is essential; candidates who do not meet deadlines may not be permitted to appear for the final examinations.

Participants are expected to complete and submit their assignments and update their Subject albums before their individual conferences, held every two months. Submissions received after these meetings will be considered late.

If there are delays in submitting Subject albums or if additional attendance is needed, the following charges will apply to help cover the extra support and evaluation involved:

- Late Submission of Subject Albums: 1% of the total course fee per subject, to be paid before the next review cycle.
- Additional Attendance Hours: 2% of the total course fee for every 10 extra hours needed to meet the course requirements. This amount is to be paid when the student confirms the schedule for the extra hours.

Please note that the fee for additional attendance does not replace the need to complete the required number of hours. Both the time and the fee are necessary to fulfill course requirements.

These measures are meant to support steady progress while allowing some flexibility in exceptional circumstances.

# Course Guidelines and Policies

## Examinations

The examination consists of two components: a written paper and a practical assessment as a viva voce.

The practical assessment will be conducted online by a panel of examiners, led by an external head examiner.

There will be a Mid-term Assessment to give students an experience of how the examinations are conducted in tune with the Montessori philosophy.

Both the theory and practical examinations are a step to enable students to complete the course requirements and maintain quality. It is not necessary for students to be anxiety-driven. Steady work through the year is sufficient to be prepared.

Participants are eligible to appear for the final examination only if:

- All course requirements have been satisfactorily completed
- All dues have been cleared

## Re-examination

If a student is unable to appear for the scheduled examination due to a valid reason, they may be granted the opportunity to reappear at a later date. A written application explaining the absence must be submitted on or before the original examination day. Medical reasons must be supported by a valid medical certificate.

In such cases:

- The full examination fee must be paid again (5% of the total course fee)
- If additional class attendance is required, the associated fees will be calculated based on the Course Guidelines and Policies
- SchoolScape will decide and schedule the date for the re-examination.

In the case of an unsuccessful outcome:

- The examining team will decide whether the student needs additional practice hours or a re-examination to successfully complete the course.
- If the student is permitted to reappear for only one part of the examination, a re-examination fee of 5% of the total course fee will apply.

If the student is unsuccessful in the re-examination, they will be required to complete the full course again to qualify for the Diploma or Audit certificate or Assistant Teacher Certificate.

# Course Guidelines and Policies

## Attendance Policy

To be marked present, the participant's camera must remain on, and they must be clearly visible to the instructor throughout the session. Attendance will not be recorded if the participant is driving during class or if poor connectivity prevents meaningful participation.

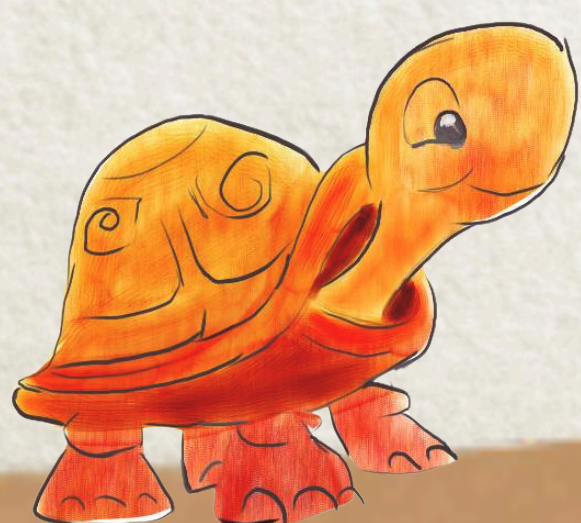
The official name of the student is to be displayed on the screen for attendance to be duly calculated.

## Attendance of Sessions

Individuals or groups who would like to attend a specific lecture or session are welcome to do so. This option is open to everyone, including course alumni. A fee of Rs. 500 per session applies. Alumni are eligible for a 15% discount.

## Class Recordings

Recordings of sessions will be made available upon request to participants who are unable to attend due to valid reasons or technical difficulties. Requests must be submitted via email, specifying the session date, within one month of the session. Please note that viewing a recording does not count as attendance.



# Course Guidelines and Policies

## Payment and Refund

Please note that all course fees-including application, examination, and course material fees - are non-refundable, except in cases where a valid reason is submitted in writing within one week of the course commencement date.

If a student needs to switch between the Diploma, Audit, or Assistant Teacher Attendance courses for a valid reason, they must discuss this with the faculty and notify the Centre in writing within one week of the Midterm assessments. Please note that any fee differential is non-refundable.

In the event that a student may have to discontinue the course due to a valid reason, they are required to notify the centre within one month of the course commencement. Should this occur, the student will have the option to rejoin the course in the following year by paying only the application fee.

If a student is unable to complete the course (including submissions and examinations) within two years of enrolment, they will be required to retake the entire course, including full payment of both the application and course fees.

## Copyright and Intellectual Property

- Notes and materials shared by SchoolScape are protected by copyright.
- Class recordings may be shared with participants for academic use but remain the intellectual property of SchoolScape.
- SchoolScape reserves the right to use images and videos from the course for marketing and outreach purposes.

Any copyright-related disputes or legal matters arising from the use of the course materials shall fall under the jurisdiction of the courts in Bengaluru.



# 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
- Education and Peace

## 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)
- Movement, Activity, Learning and the Construction of the 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



# Amukta Mahapatra

## Founder-Director

Founder and Director of SchoolScape, she has been associated with the field of school education for 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 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.

# Kym van Straaten

## Faculty

Kym van Straaten is a respected Montessori educator, having extensive experience as a Montessori teacher, principal, and teacher trainer. She has also worked on the development of the Montessori curriculum and design. She ran her own school, Randburg Montessori, in

Johannesburg for children aged 18 months to 13 years for 18 years. She moved with her family to Hout Bay. She shares her life with her incredibly supportive husband Craig, daughter Amy, and son Travis.



Kym holds a Diploma in Human resources, B-Ed in Early Years Education, MACTE 3 – 6 Montessori Diploma, and AMI 6 – 12 Diploma. She has lectured both nationally and internationally and regularly delivers presentations at parent evenings, workshops and the SAMA conferences as well as other ECD conferences in South Africa. She has served the greater Montessori community by leading the South African Montessori Association (SAMA) as President in 2016 and 2017 and serving on the Executive Committee for over 6 years.

# Gracy Kingsley

## Faculty

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.



## Dhanvanthini

### Faculty

Dhanvanthini was born and brought up in Chennai, where her upbringing was closely intertwined with farming and the cultural strongholds of a household in South India. She holds a Master's degree in Human Development and Family Dynamics and clearly remembers that

the course of her education was always a result of her conscious decisions. When her son enrolled in a Montessori programme in 2015, it felt like a revelation to her. Since then, she has taken a greater interest in understanding the pedagogy, witnessing not just her own family's growth but also the unfolding and discovery of the children in the environments she works with.

Dhanvanthini has completed her Preprimary training from IMTC-Chennai, followed by an Elementary diploma from Sharanalaya Teacher Development Initiative and with SchoolScape. She has been working with children as a lead adult since 2017. She is passionate about the Montessori approach and is committed to playing a role in the Cosmic Plan, whatever it may be. She is an intern faculty for the Preprimary and Elementary courses, as well as the School Development projects for SchoolScape. She continues to be based in Chennai.



## Nisha Dias

### Faculty

Nisha Dias is a devoted educator with a background in early childhood education and a deep commitment to nurturing children's holistic development. After obtaining a Bachelor of Engineering in Telecommunications and accumulating over a decade of experience in HR

management, Nisha followed her true passion: working with children. For over 10 years, she served as the founder and centre head of Munchkins Montessori and Daycare Centre in India, leading the team in creating a nurturing environment where children could thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. She currently operates a Montessori-based homeschool for children aged 3 to 12 years in Malaysia.

With a Diploma in Preprimary and Elementary Montessori education from IMTC and SchoolScape respectively, she brings a comprehensive understanding of child development and a hands-on approach to curriculum planning and implementation.

