



The Montessori OBSERVER

Creating the
New Society

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IMS Confronts Federal and State Regulations

Montessori Opposes Staff-Child Ratios

Questionnaires received by IMS from the September *Observer* revealed that many Montessori schools encounter difficulty in obtaining waiver from staff-child ratios which are normally required by the pertinent child care regulations. Other difficulties include: requirements for nap-time, fire-safety and zoning.

IMS has responded to such concerns by advising schools of appropriate local action. In many states, such as California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Washington, a waiver from regulations may be requested. Where waiver is not permitted, IMS suggests that local support be offered on behalf of the enactment of a waiver provision for "educational centers", which would include Montessori schools, such as IMS Montessori school members.

Several states are currently engaged in a revision of regulations which will significantly affect Montessori schools. IMS participates in this revision process in such states as North Dakota, Maryland, Kentucky, California, Illinois and Ohio by offering review and comments concerning the pertinent regulations. In general, state agencies respect Montessori education and respond favorably to specific proposals for appropriate accommodation.

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IMS Supports State Waiver Revision to FIDCR

Since the IMS proposal for revision of the federal day care regulations (FIDCR) was submitted to Secretary Harris in summer, 1980, an effort has been under way to obtain support for such revision from the various states. The IMS proposal is to enable states to request waiver of the application of certain provisions of FIDCR, such as staff-child ratios and group size requirements, so that Montessori schools and other unique programs may have an effective opportunity to participate in federal fundings programs, such as Title XX.

Many states have offered support for such a waiver, citing the need to accommodate local needs and concerns. Notably, New Jersey and South Carolina have responded with specific written comments to Secretary Harris on behalf of the IMS proposal.

South Carolina

Governor Richard Riley stated in his letter to HHS Secretary Harris: "In an effort to strengthen the flexibility of the various states to exercise options which best reflect a state's unique needs and concerns, the state of South Carolina supports (the state waiver proposal)..."

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Dr. Duvall, newest member of the Council's Advisory Committee.

Council Welcomes New Advisory Committee Member

The International Montessori Council, responsible for accreditation of Montessori teacher training programs, announces the participation of Dr. Jerry Duvall as newest member of the Advisory Committee. Joining Dr. Matteson on the committee which provides the Council's final accreditation authority, Dr. Duvall will lend a distinctive economic perspective to the important work of the committee.

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Qualified Teachers Needed

The shortage of qualified Montessori teachers is a major barrier to the creation of the *new education*. Therefore, IMS is developing new training centers to implement the IMS curriculum of independent study, workshop and practical internship. It is believed that the IMS training format will encourage the participation of mature, responsible individuals which are most needed as teachers in Montessori education.

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Creating the New Society

Montessori teachers, focused on the daily, seemingly "routine" experiences and responsibilities in the classroom, sometimes lose sight of the larger purpose to which their activity is directed. Montessori environments for children reflect the creation of the *new education* upon which Dr. Montessori believed a peaceful and harmonious society could be developed.

Events of major world attention, such as the presidential elections in the United States in November, 1980, offer an opportunity for the Montessori community to examine its larger purpose with regard to the creation of a *new society*. To consider the idea of a *new society*, committed to the conditions of fundamental human dignity, effectiveness and adequacy for all seems naive and incredible in the midst of present world conditions of massive hunger and poverty, economic stagnation, threat of war and foreign domination, crime and violence. However, creating new conditions in society depends not on external reality, but rather on the intention, courage, patience and humility of an individual.

Principles of Creativity

The source of creation is within the individual, and does not depend on external conditions. Creation occurs now in the moment from nothing and therefore, leaves no "trace" in the normal measures of time and space. However, evidence for created reality can be realized in the sense that such reality can be acknowledged and communicated; e.g., Montessori teachers can observe the normalized child becoming the *new man*, able to master detrimental conditions in the environment with courage, joy and satisfaction.

Realizing the New Society

Since the *new society* is a natural development of the *new education*, changing conditions in society serve as a validation of the creation of the *new education*. The teacher's commitment to Montessori principles in the classroom

naturally extends throughout society as normalized children communicate their true nature in society and as the teacher expresses her courage and commitment into areas of life beyond the classroom.

Montessori—A Laboratory

Montessori teachers perfect their creative abilities in the classroom through their engagement with the children from a commitment to Montessori principles. Therefore, the Montessori classroom represents a laboratory in which the creation of the Montessori environment communicates to society by creating the *new education*. In this same sense, the entire Montessori community represents a larger research into the use of Montessori principles in adult society. As the principles of creativity are discovered and communicated in the Montessori community, new generating forces are established which naturally and spontaneously emerge in a realization of the *new society*.

Qualified Teachers Needed

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IMS aims to establish such centers under the local direction of qualified program managers. Salary for such program managers will be a commission based on a percentage of tuition income received from the students.

Interested individuals are invited to inquire with IMS for details and an application to serve as local program manager.

Participate in the New Education

JOIN IMS

Benefits include:

- 8 issues of the *Montessori Observer*
- Montessori publications at discount
- IMS program information

*BONUS!

- FREE "Montessori" bumper sticker

Complete and submit the Reader Response Form

**Bonus offer guaranteed only while supplies last.*

IMS Training Centers

Alaska, Anchorage
Montessori Creative Training Center
Margaret Green, Director
2601 Fairbanks St.
Anchorage, AK 99503
(905) 272-5033

Texas, San Antonio
Kriterion Montessori Teacher Center
Joh Laven, Director
611 West Ashby Place
San Antonio, TX 78212
(512) 735-9778

Washington, Renton
IMS/Washington State
Mary Quick, Director
P.O. Box 2019
Renton, WA 98055
(206) 255-9666

Washington, D.C.
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Look for the January Observer featuring Training Montessori Teachers

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Lee Havis, Executive Director

The Montessori Observer is mailed eight times each year to Montessori schools in North America and IMS members throughout the world. The Observer is sent during the following months: Jan., Feb., March, April, May, Sept., Oct., and Nov. The purpose of this publication is to provide news and information about the development of Montessori education to extend awareness of Montessori principles and promote harmony within the Montessori community.

INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI SOCIETY

The International Montessori Society is sponsored by Educational Services, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized in Maryland, U.S.A. The purpose of IMS is to support the effective application of Montessori principles throughout the world.

SUBSCRIPTION

The *Montessori Observer* is provided at no cost to Montessori schools in North America. Subscription to this publication may be obtained by requesting IMS membership which is open to all individuals for a \$10 yearly fee. Complete the membership application form to obtain an individual subscription and other benefits of IMS membership.

ADVERTISING

Advertising space is available for services and products relating to Montessori education. Marketplace ads are \$7/line. Position and Placement ads are \$10 each and will be set and edited by us to conform to space requirements. Write for our advertising outline for rates and other information about design advertising.

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Announcements

N.A.M.T.A. will sponsor a Montessori workshop on Feb. 6, 7, 1981 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Presenters include: **Hildegard Solzbacher** (Language), **Carol Alver** (Classroom Management) and **Charlene Trochta** (Cultural Subjects). For further information, contact: **Carolina Loughran** and **Laura Klein**, 649 W. 28th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V5Z 2H4, (604) 731-6917.

Marketplace

"MONTESSORI" Bumper Stickers: Provide to staff and parents to extend public awareness of "Montessori". Resell to raise funds for school. \$0.60 each for quantities over 10. 1 free to IMS members. To order, complete Reader Response form.

MCP Primary Readers: Packaged in four sets of ten different readers. Each set presents interesting stories which emphasize a particular phonetic element. 20% discount for IMS members. To order, complete Reader Response form.

Council

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Dr. Duvall's background includes extensive experience as business consultant in economics and management from 1966 to 1978. In 1979, he received his Ph.D. in economics from the American University (Washington, D.C.). Dr. Duvall has served as lecturer in economics at the American University and Montgomery College (Takoma Park, MD) since 1971. In July, 1978, he was appointed by the Governor of Maryland to serve a six-year term on the Board of Trustees of Montgomery College, where he is currently vice-chairman. Dr. Duvall is presently employed by the Federal Communications Commission where he serves as economist in the Office of Plans and Policies.

IMS is proud to welcome Dr. Duvall to participation in the important work of accrediting training programs under the International Montessori Council.

Montessori Opposes

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In South Carolina, the new proposed child care regulations will make more lenient and flexible certain fire safety regulations by providing a waiver from such provisions and by deleting the regulation which requires that "no children six and under shall be located above or below the floor of exit discharge".

IMS requests that Montessori schools having difficulty in obtaining waiver from restrictive and inappropriate child care regulations contact IMS for specific advice and assistance.

Anger in the Classroom

Dr. Montessori warned against *anger* and *pride* as the two most destructive qualities in teachers which must be controlled in the classroom. However, in controlling the harmful expression of anger in the classroom, teachers must work to acknowledge and express such feelings appropriately. Control of anger is not suppression or avoidance of anger.

Suppression of anger is not an effective means of resolving such feelings in the teacher. Suppression results in inappropriate teacher behavior such as physical force, manipulation, fatigue, insensitive remarks and lack of attention in the classroom.

Anger is appropriately expressed when such feelings are acknowledged and communicated responsibly. Shouting and other similar attention-getting devices are not necessary and must be controlled. However, teachers must permit the appropriate manifestation of anger, such as facial and voice tension and statements of feelings (e.g., "I am angry"). Responsible communication of anger acknowledges the source of such feelings within the teacher, *not the child*.

The teacher herself is the aspect of the environment which may be most difficult to "prepare". Nevertheless, a full commitment to the principle of "preparation of the environment" requires that teachers observe and control themselves, particularly with regard to feelings such as "anger".

Positions & Placements

Program Managers: to coordinate local management of IMS training courses. Salary a commission based on percentage of tuition income received. Contract includes option for IMS affiliation and program ownership in future. Write for application and details to: IMS, P.O. Box 4338, Washington, D.C. 20012.

Montessori teacher: (2-6) experienced; to serve as head teacher for preschoolers. Beautifully organized school with pleasant surroundings. Send resume or contact: Florence Foster Montessori 555 W. 115th St. Chicago, IL 60628, (312) 995-1174. Transportation, boarding and salary negotiable.

Montessori teacher: (2-6) to begin Jan. 1 or sooner; bachelor's degree req'd. Salary based on experience, full-day program. Contact: Judy Goldie (301) 627-1638 or (301) 868-0060, Upper Marlboro Children's House, Inc., P.O. Box 104, Upper Marlboro, MD 20870.

Montessori teachers: (2½-6) (6-9) (9-12); Send resume to: Eleanor Wilson, Blaisdale Montessori School, 125 Orton Park Road, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.

IMS Supports State Waiver

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New Jersey

Ann Klein, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, noted to IMS that "states might wish to exercise this option whenever they encounter a program which could best serve children if excused from certain aspects of the regulations...I have advised Secretary Harris...of our support for the proposed revision".

However, some states have been reluctant to tangibly support the state waiver due apparently to a lack of awareness of the importance of the matter. State waiver to FIDCR is needed to effectively engage the restrictive staff-child ratios and group size requirements detrimental to Montessori education. Without a state waiver provision, FIDCR requirements may be incorporated into state day care requirements and other federal programs to enhance "consistency" and "uniformity" of all such regulations.

Direct comments on behalf of the IMS proposal for state waiver to your state governor, c/o state capital. Send a copy of such correspondence to your congressional delegation and to IMS for further appropriate action.

Address correction requested

P. O. Box 4338 • Washington, D.C. 20012

OBSERVER
The Montessori



Complete and mail to: IMS, P.O. Box 4338, Washington, D.C. 20012

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Name	Position	Tele.	
Street	City	State	Zip Code
Name of School	Tele.		
Street	City	State	Zip Code

IMS MEMBERSHIP STATUS

- Individual (Card No. _____)
- Montessori School (Exp. date _____)
- Associate School (Card No. _____)
- Non-member

IMS Membership Application

- \$15 (Individual membership)
- \$20 (Associate school membership)
- \$45 (Montessori school membership)*

IMS INFORMATION REQUESTED

- IMS Montessori school membership
- Associate school membership
- Montessori teacher training
- Establishing an IMS teacher training center
- Specialized courses
- Montessori publications and materials
- Group medical and dental plan
- Montessori elementary training course
- Other (specify)

*Membership criteria and information form will be sent for confirmation and completion of procedures

Signature _____ Date _____

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non-member price: \$1.00 each
for quantities over 10: \$0.60 each

Quantity _____	Total Price _____
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Residents of Md. Add 5% sales tax	_____
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RESPONSE

READER