



*The Montessori*

# OBSERVER

Government  
Regulations

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## **New Ohio Regulations Deter Montessori**

Many Montessori schools in Ohio may now face compliance with new day-care regulations which severely limit the number of children permitted in a single group. Such regulations, recently adopted by the Department of Public Welfare, would effectively limit the number of children in a normal Montessori preschool classroom to no more than twenty (20).

Although parent-run centers and certain part-day programs may avoid the restrictive regulation of the Department of Public Welfare, the normal full-day Montessori center will be required to comply with such regulation in order to operate in the state. Since there is no waiver provision in the regulations, such Montessori centers will be required to meet a wide range of regulations including restrictive staff-child ratios, limited group size requirements and other restrictive conditions detrimental to Montessori education.

The fundamental difficulty with regulation in Ohio is a state day care law which mandates the enforcement of specific staff-child ratios and requires that children be supervised in "small groups." Since there is no waiver provision from such requirements in the state day care law, fundamental change in the regulatory structure of Ohio can only be achieved through legislative action.

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## **Complete Set of Montessori Observers**

Readers may now complete their collection of Montessori Observers by ordering any or all of the seven-issue set of Vol. I, 1980. These valuable publications which

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BigToys® structure, Model BY-3, 700-lbs., features include tire-swing, slidechute, climbing tire and wooden log deck.

## **Outdoor Equipment Offered**

Special outdoor activity equipment will now be available for purchase through IMS with a 10% discount to IMS school members. This attractive, natural-looking equipment, known as Backyard BigToys®, features a sturdy construction of round logs in combination with a simple coordinated component system.

IMS offers this equipment to meet a need for appropriate apparatus to support schools in providing the best possible recreational activity for children. Based on its research into the various equipment systems available commercially, IMS believes that Backyard BigToys® offers Montessori schools the most effective means of meeting this important school need. BigToys® combines high quality with the most favorable price possible.

An important feature of BigToys® is its flexible component system which allows for a variety of structural arrangements using the same basic components. In this regard, IMS has designed a

unique two-deck component structure, identified in the IMS promotional information as BY-7, which incorporates a wide range of activity and interest for both young and old children. Such a structure is designed to meet the unique needs of the normal Montessori school.

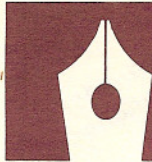
Contact IMS for further details and order form.

## **Health Insurance Needed**

Many Montessori schools now recognize a responsibility and need to provide health insurance for their employees. The issue is: Who pays for the employee's medical bills when the employee becomes disabled through illness or accident and has no coverage and very little money?

The IMS approach to health insurance for school employees is a comprehensive plan to cover customary and reasonable charges up to a maximum of \$1,000,000.

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## Regulating Montessori Education

Inappropriate government regulation of Montessori schools is a major current barrier to the complete and effective application of Montessori principles throughout the world. One Montessori school owner, summarizing her frustration in the face of local regulation stated: "They are a typical self-serving bureaucracy, overly zealous in creating and enforcing un-needed regulations on every aspect of our operations." Mistrust, fear and hostility appear to be pervasive conditions within which the regulation of Montessori education occurs.

### Detrimental Regulation

Day care agencies, under whose authority most Montessori schools function, often seek to enforce inappropriate regulations, notably restrictive staff-child ratios and group size requirements. Other areas of enforcement often include requirements affecting nap-time, equipment, program and hours. Some licensing agencies defend the enforcement of restrictive staff-child ratios on Montessori schools by citing national studies which seem to indicate that such ratios provide a dependable assurance of program quality. However, since it is unlikely that such studies adequately considered Montessori programs in their research, it is equally unlikely that the conclusions of such studies can be appropriately applied to Montessori programs. One federal government official defended the restrictive staff-child ratios of the federal day care regulations (FIDCR) by stating: "Our research indicated that few federally funded children were enrolled in Montessori programs."

### Confronting Regulations

IMS confronts the inappropriate regulation of Montessori schools through extensive direct communication with local day care licensing agencies. In this regard, selected officials in such agencies regularly receive the *Montessori Observer*. In addition, specific sug-

gestions and comments are provided by IMS to enable the most advantageous revision of regulations and accommodation to the unique needs and concerns of Montessori education.

### Communication is Key

Communication is the basic means to resolve regulatory difficulties with local officials. This needed communication is considerably enhanced when the local schools actively participate with IMS in this process of confrontation and communication.

### Courage Needed

Local schools need considerable courage to confront regulations since the school's license to operate may be jeopardized by such confrontation. However, the alternative to such confrontation is a continuation of fear and uncertainty within which Montessori education cannot effectively express itself. Montessori schools cannot function effectively in violation of legal requirements or in compliance with inappropriate regulations. The dilemma of detrimental regulations can only be effectively resolved through the creation of new conditions consistent with a complete commitment to Montessori principles.

### Creating New Conditions

Montessori schools can create the needed new conditions through a process of communication and confrontation with the local regulatory agencies. IMS particularly acknowledges those schools willing to engage inappropriate regulation through confrontation with local government agencies. Such confrontation is under way in many jurisdictions, notably in the states of Oregon, Michigan and Maryland. IMS seeks to participate with individual schools and local organizations to resolve specific difficulties so that these efforts can serve to benefit the entire Montessori community.

## Montessori Observers

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can be obtained only while supplies last feature the following series of topics of vital concern to Montessori education today:

- Feb./1980, No. 1  
*Creating the New Education*
- March/1980, No. 2  
*Montessori Elementary Education*
- April/1980, No. 3  
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- May/1980, No. 4  
*Montessori Materials*
- Sept./1980, No. 5  
*Beyond Cosmic Education*
- Oct./1980, No. 6  
*Montessori Accreditation*
- Nov./1980, No. 7  
*Creating the New Society*

Complete the order form with this *Observer* to obtain the desired issue(s). Upon request, IMS Montessori school members can obtain free copies of any or all of the seven-issue set.

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## Look for the April Observer featuring Montessori World-wide

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### The Montessori Observer

published by  
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P.O. Box 4338  
Washington, D.C. 20012  
(301) 589-1127

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 \$15 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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## Book Review

### Prisoners of Pain

Pub. Doubleday, 1980

by Dr. Arthur Janov

*Prisoners of Pain*, Dr. Janov's latest contribution to the scientific study of feelings, extends significantly his original discoveries and insights about the cure for neurosis first presented in his revolutionary best-seller, *The Primal Scream*.

*Prisoners* extends the basic notion of Janov's *Primal Therapy* whereby painful early childhood events are re-lived and resolved in a series of therapy sessions. The cure to neurosis is now viewed by Janov as not confined to a single event or finite series of therapy sessions, but rather as a continuing process of feeling throughout life.

In *Prisoners*, Janov insightfully compares an individual's life with the history of human evolution. In this regard, social institutions are viewed as a complex extension of the human mind employed to suppress the experience of painful prior events. The resolution of detrimental social conditions is thus begun as a confrontation with the individual's personal history of suppressed, painful prior experiences.

In a chapter dealing with children and education, the guidance of children is not seen by Janov as so much a system of rules to follow but rather as a sensitivity and orientation to feelings. Janov asserts: "Feelings take care of it all. It is never what you do so much as who you are." Dr. Janov advises that feelings be fully brought into the classroom.

For many teachers, the adult personality is the most detrimental aspect of the classroom environment. *Prisoners* is highly recommended reading as an effective means of confronting such adult personality to enhance the quality of life in the classroom and society.

Dr. Janov is an IMS advisory board member and world-renowned psychologist. *The Primal Scream* and *Prisoners of Pain* are both available through IMS.

### Health Insurance

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The IMS endorsed plan can provide such coverage with little cost to the school itself if premiums are paid by the school from salary deductions of the covered employees. Such a school insurance plan expresses the school's concern and sense of responsibility for the health and well-being of the staff. With today's rising hospital costs, such a comprehensive health insurance program may meet the needs and concerns of school employees more effectively than a salary increase.

An alternative to the IMS approach of comprehensive insurance is the "Fixed Dollar Benefit (FDB)" plan which provides only a specific amount of money for each day in the hospital. However, in inflationary times, such FDB plans can fail significantly to provide adequate protection for hospital expenses which can vary widely depending on location and treatment. FDB plans can only serve effectively as a supplement to a basic comprehensive program and, standing alone, may prove totally inadequate.

Contact IMS for premium rate information and details of coverage available through the IMS health plan.

## Marketplace

**Advertise in Observer:** Place ad here for sales, offers to buy, services and products relating to Montessori education. *Marketplace* ads are \$7/line. *Position and Placement* ads are \$10 each. Observer reaches Montessori schools in all states, Canada and Mexico and IMS members throughout the world. Send ad request now to reserve space in April and May issues.

**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 order form.

## Positions & Placements

**Montessori teacher:** (6-9) or (9-12); also experienced teacher for (3-6) class. Well-equipped, established school with own facilities. Located about 50 miles north of Palm Beach. Competitive salaries with fringe benefits including health plan. Send resume to: Administrator, Sun Grove Montessori School, Rt. 4, Box 342, Ft. Pierce, FL 33450, or call (305) 464-5436.

**Montessori teachers:** (2½-6) Seven positions available. Good starting salary and benefits. Contact: M. Murray, Director, Montessori Schools, Inc., 1357 Van Horne Ave., Montreal, Que. Canada H2V 1K7.

**Montessori teacher:** (6-10) Teacher with program development and administrative experience. Salary negotiable based on experience. Contact: Administrator, Montessori Children's School, 25800 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake, OH 44145, tel. 871-8773.

**Montessori teacher:** (6-9) to establish a 6-9 class starting September 1, 1981 in Charlottesville, VA. Capital and assistance provided, with option to assume ownership. Salary negotiable. Send resume to Barbara Barnes Beasley, 1901 Thompson Rd., University Montessori School, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

**Montessori teachers:** (6-9) and (9-12) School established in 1969. (9-12) class to begin in September, 1981. Contact: Ms. E. Wilson, 7 Crescent Place, Apt. 2602, Toronto, Ont. Canada M4C 5L7 or call (416) 690-7351.

**Montessori teacher:** (2-6) for a well-established Catholic Montessori school. Starting Sept., 1981. Dedicated and enthusiastic individual sought. Excellent benefits. Full day session. Contact: St. Anthony's Montessori School, 672 Passaic Ave., Kearny, N.J. 07032, tel. M-F, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (201) 997-3220-21.

**Montessori Teacher:** (K-1) in an established extended day class for the 1981-82 school year, starting June 1, 1981. Fully equipped classroom. Parent-run school; 17 years in the community. Salary negotiable, commensurate with educational background and experience. Submit resume and references to: Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana, 1112 Broadmoor, Champaign, IL 61820. (217) 356-1818.

### Placements

**Elementary sponsorship:** Primary trained male seeks sponsorship for elementary training. MED., 5 yrs., experience. Wife primary trained desires ½ day position if possible. Contact: Dave Gray, 609 N. Mill, Eldon, MO 65026. (314) 392-3409.

### New Ohio Regulations

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IMS will direct its future efforts to achieve appropriate change of state law on behalf of the best interests of Montessori education in Ohio. Contact IMS for further information about the new Ohio regulations and to cooperate with legislative action in the state.

Address correction requested

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

**OBSERVER**  
The Montessori



**PUBLICATIONS & MATERIALS**

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

March 1981/Vol. II, No. 3

### Montessori Publications

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_____	Carinato, Sister Mary Ellen et al Montessori Matters	14.00	_____	Montessori, Maria Dr. Montessori's Own Handbook	3.95
_____	Goodwin, Mary Creative Food Experiences for Children	5.95	_____	From Childhood to Adolescence	2.75
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1 free to IMS members  
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