



The Montessori OBSERVER

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IMS Certification Recognized in Michigan

In a recent memorandum issued by the Michigan Child Care Licensing Division, IMS teacher certification was specifically recognized for an exemption from the state's staff qualification requirements for program directors of child care centers. Such recognition of IMS certification was based on an "extensive review" of the IMS training and accreditation requirements conducted by the Licensing Division.

The specific regulation in question [Rule R 400.5104 (2)] normally requires certain specific academic qualifications for program directors of child care centers. The Division's exemption decision, in effect, now qualifies graduates of IMS teacher training programs to open and operate Montessori schools in the state.

However, IMS notes its continued opposition to other requirements of the Michigan regulations which adversely

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Free Publications for IMS Members

IMS Montessori school members may now receive free, upon request, multiple copies of the popular IMS newsheet and book order form entitled "Montessori Publications". This newsheet provides a substantial listing of programs and services offered by IMS, including descriptive information and order form for numerous popular books about Montessori education.

IMS offers this publication to Montessori school members free for distribution to parents—to support and extend the communication of information about Montessori education. Quantities up to a maximum of the number of children enrolled at the school may be requested. IMS pays postage.

Individuals and non-member schools may order copies of the newsheet publication at a rate of \$0.20 each for quantities less than 100. For quantities over 100, copies are \$0.10 each.

Send order for "Montessori Publications" newsheet to IMS. *Prepaid only* (for non-members).



Elementary children working at the Montessori School of Denver (Denver, CO)—See article on page 3.

IMS Montessori Schools . . .

IMS recognizes the following schools for their recently affirmed membership status.

Montessori Child Development Center Hacienda Heights, CA

Carolyn Mueller is the director and owner of the Montessori Child Development Center. The school offers a full-day program for children ages 2-12. The program also includes a half-day session for children 2-6 and day care services from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Special features of this school include a summer Montessori program, Spanish, music and gymnastics. For further information, contact: Carolyn Mueller, Montessori Child Development Center, 15207 Los Robles Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 (213) 968-8207.

Aria Montessori School Pasadena, CA

The Aria Montessori School is under the direction and ownership of **Jo Ann Aria**. The school provides a full-day program for children at the primary (2-6) and elementary (6-9) age level. A half-day primary session is also offered. Additional services include an extended day care program and an after school program for public primary schools.

Special program features include Spanish, music, dance, art, cooking, gardening and a summer Montessori program. For further information, contact: Jo Ann Aria, Aria Montessori School, 693 South Euclid Ave., Pasadena, CA 91106 (213) 793-3741.

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IMS/Santa Rosa Now Enrolling

The IMS/Santa Rosa Montessori Teacher Training Program is now accepting applications for its 1982-83 course. This program offers IMS certification for teaching children ages 2-6.

The materials workshop (Aug. 2-20) will be held in Santa Rosa, CA and will include a presentation of Montessori apparatus in the subject matter areas of Practical Life, Sensorial, Math and Language. Instructors include: **Curtis R. Chamberlain**-Practical Life; **Dee Johnson**-Sensorial; **Deborah D. Melikian**-Math; and **Sara Armstrong**-Language.

Curtis R. Chamberlain—Practical Life

Mr. Chamberlain received Montessori teacher certification from Sonoma State College (Sonoma, CA, 1975). He has served as Montessori teacher and director of day care at the Berkeley Montessori School (Berkeley, CA) since 1974. Mr. Chamberlain has also served as a teacher of movement and music for children at the Berkeley Conservatory Ballet since 1979.

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New Education Laws Proposed for Maryland

The state of Maryland is presently considering the adoption of new education laws to provide a qualified exemption from the existing requirement that Montessori schools and other private schools have a "certificate of approval" from the state prior to and as a condition of their operation in the state. The bills were introduced by **Delegate Stewart Bainum** and **Senator Victor Crawford**.

On Feb. 10, 1982, testimony was heard before a House committee of the Maryland General Assembly considering these bills. Written testimony in support of this legislation was submitted by **Lee Havis**, IMS executive director, **Joan and Clopper Almon**, associated with the Waldorf schools, and **Anne Brewer**, a local Montessori teacher.

In her written testimony, Joan Almon noted that the current law "poses a serious threat to the existence of . . .

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Here And Now

“. . . the tomorrow of the child . . . is the constant occupation (of traditional education) . . . The present is never taken seriously into account.”

M. Montessori, from *The Child* (Adyar, 1974)

Thus Dr. Montessori viewed the failure of traditional education to address the child's present moment. Montessori education, in contrast, aims towards the child's experience of "here and now." Such experience reveals the child's true nature—spontaneous and creative, in harmony with its environment.

The Adult Experience

The adult's experience of "here and now" is not normally so harmonious. Fears of the future and unresolved problems of the past roughly intrude to cloud the true nature of reality.

The Nature of Reality

On the surface, reality appears to change over time—"past," "present" and "future" appear completely separate and distinct. However, in truth, all reality exists only in the experience of "here and now." The appearance of change of such reality is actually a shifting consciousness which locates the individual's state of being in relation to life unfolding in an eternal present.

Eternal Present

Erika Cheetham writes in *The Prophecies of Nostradamus* that "The modern disciples of Einstein recognize nothing but an eternal present. . . The whole trend of advanced knowledge is to place the laws of physics in a four dimensional continuum, that is, the eternal present. If this is so then past, present and future exist simultaneously." Cheetham suggests that the future and past can be revealed by realizing the present moment. In short, a reality which changes in time is an illusion.

Time

Modern science suggests that "time" is a measure of change of consciousness—within an unchanging, eternal reality defined by the present moment. It is a little like sitting in a speeding train looking at the passing scene which seems to rush by out the window. However, the actual reality is that the scene is not moving—but rather the individual and the train is moving.

No Escape

In sum, there is no escape from "here and now"—the present moment is eternal. To resolve all of the great mysteries of life and the problems of humanity there is no where to go and nothing to do. This great creative idea of

realizing "here and now" is clearly reflected by the silent and passive Montessori teacher in the classroom.

Classroom Practice

The Montessori teacher creates the right conditions for the realization of the child's experience of the present moment by a practice of conscious disengagement from direct involvement with the child. Dr. Montessori noted the value of "doing nothing" in *Reconstruction of Education* (p. 9): "When I ask the child (what I can do to help him), he is so kind to answer me: 'Personally, please, do nothing. You can do nothing directly for me.'"

The Path of Montessori

Montessori education follows a path of revealing and freeing the child to experience the present moment. Along this path of creative non-intervention, the Montessori teacher enables the child's true nature to unfold in the classroom. Likewise, the creative Montessori path is leading humanity to a fulfillment of Dr. Montessori's prediction in *Discovery of the Child* (p. 330) that "New generations will experience a new age when misery will . . . be destroyed." Such a vision is now unfolding in the eternal "here and now."

New Education Laws

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alternative schools. The bills proposed by Delegate Bainum stand out as an enlightened alternative to a very difficult and restrictive situation." Clopper Almon testified as to the great harm inherent in the existing law. He stated: "The present law, which allows a bureaucracy to kill a fledging endeavor by . . . not granting the approval, could not be better designed to discourage innovative and new undertakings in higher education."

Ms. Brewer stated in her testimony that she supported the new laws to prevent the state from denying individuals the right to teach in Montessori schools. She stated that although she possessed a Montessori certificate and considerable academic and practical training as a teacher, she was denied two teaching positions in the state because her education was "not recognized in the state of Maryland".

The need to change the existing education laws is highlighted by the pending IMS federal court suit which challenges the constitutionality of these laws. In this suit, IMS seeks injunctive relief and monetary damages for state action taken to prohibit the operation of its teacher training program in the state.

IMS Montessori School Membership

Benefits Include:

- Eight issues of the *Montessori Observer*
- Discounts on publications and materials
- Eligibility for group medical plan
- Listing in IMS Membership Directory

Annual Dues . . . \$45.00

Also, **FREE** with membership . . .

- "Montessori" bumper sticker
- Back issue(s) of "Observer" (on request)
- Copy of *IMS Membership Directory*
- Free Copies of "Montessori Publications"

For application and membership criteria, contact:

**IMS, 912 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

Look for the
April Observer
featuring
Communication

The Montessori Observer

published by
INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI SOCIETY

912 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 589-127

Lee Havis, Executive Director

The *Montessori Observer* is mailed eight times each year to 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.

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SUBSCRIPTION

Subscription to this publication may be obtained by requesting IMS membership which is open to all individuals for a \$15 yearly fee. IMS school members also receive a subscription to the *Observer*. 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

Growing Without Schools, published by *Holt and Associates, Inc.*, is a bi-monthly magazine to support parents in providing education for their children outside of the public schools. Individual subscription is \$15.00 for six issues. Send check, payable to "Growing Without Schools" to: GROWING WITHOUT SCHOOLS, 729 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116.

The National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools provides a newsletter and supportive communication on behalf of independent and alternative education. Individual membership dues are \$10.00. Contact: NCACS, 1289 Jewett St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

The Kodaly Center of America will hold its summer music course July 4 - July 31, 1982 at Southeastern Massachusetts University (North Dartmouth, MA). For application and information, contact: Kodaly Summer Course KCA, 1326 Washington St., W. Newton, MA 02165.

Parents "Unschool" Their Children

John Holt, noted author of "How Children Fail", is coordinating efforts of parents to "unschool" their children by opposing the imposition of state-controlled education on their children. Many parents now refuse to subject their children to the coercive practices and conditions inherent in the public school system. Mr. Holt supports these parents to avoid state-imposed public schooling by assisting them to teach their children at home.

Mr. Holt's newsletter, "Growing Without Schools" provides legal information and other valuable resources for parents seeking an alternative to the public school system. A recent issue of this newsletter published part of Mr. Holt's testimony before the Massachusetts Legislature in which he noted the value and need for alternative education. He stated that "There are many schools all over the country whose curricula and methods are completely different from the state schools, like Montessori schools . . . that have shown outstanding results."

Mr. Holt also noted the fundamental injustice of permitting state education agencies to evaluate the educational curricula of private schools—"it is a little like telling the people they can own any kind of car they want, as long as they have the approval of the local General Motors dealer."

The interest of parents in teaching their children at home reflects a significant recent trend in opposition to traditional education in the United States. Such a trend could prove significantly supportive to the development of Montessori education in this country.

IMS/Santa Rosa
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Dee Johnson—Sensorial

Ms. Johnson holds an M.Ed. degree in early childhood education and a Montessori teacher certificate from the College of Notre Dame (Belmont, CA, 1974). She has served as director and early childhood teacher in several schools since 1968. Currently, Ms. Johnson is a Montessori teacher at Montessori Preschool (Santa Rosa, CA).

Deborah Melikian—Math

Ms. Melikian holds an M.Ed. and Montessori certificate from Xavier University (Cincinnati, OH, 1977). She was the principal lecturer in Montessori math and language for the 1978-79 Montessori teacher training program at Beaver College (Philadelphia, PA). Currently, Ms. Melikian is director of Big City Montessori School (San Francisco, CA).

Sara Armstrong—Language

Ms. Armstrong holds an M.A. degree in Education from the University of California (Berkeley, CA, 1981) and Montessori teacher certification from Sonoma State College (Sonoma, CA, 1975). She has served as consultant and language and math instructor for several Montessori training courses and workshops. Ms. Armstrong is the founder of Terra Nuova Montessori Elementary School (Hayward, CA) and has served as the schools director and teacher since 1978.

Enrollment in the Course

IMS/Santa Rosa is the only 1982-83 teacher training course offered by the International Montessori Society. Therefore, IMS advises that applications for this course be completed and submitted promptly to assure participation.

Enrollment in the course is limited. Applications will be considered in order of receipt. Send request for student catalog and enrollment application to:

International Montessori Society
912 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

For a personal interview or additional information, contact: **Katy Grattan**, IMS/Santa Rosa program manager, Montessori Preschool, 620 McDonald Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 94505 (707) 544-7074.

IMS Certification

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affect Montessori education; e.g., restrictive staff/child ratios and excessive space requirements imposed on Montessori schools.

IMS applauds the recent exemption decision of the Michigan Licensing Division and looks forward to further similar accommodations on behalf of Montessori education in the state.

Positions & Placements

Montessori Teacher: (2-6). Westminster Maryland Montessori seeks pre-primary directress/or to begin September '82. BA Degree preferred. Located 50 mi. north of Washington, D.C. in country setting. Send resume and references to: Gail Myers, P.O. Box 864, Westminster, MD 21157.

Montessori Teachers: (3-6), (9-12). Full time (3-6) Directress with experience, for well established pre-school class. Elementary level (6-9) has been established for three years, so trained Directress (9-12) needed to continue these children in their Montessori education. Send resume to: Montessori Child Dev. Center, Sr. Deanna Randall, Administrator, 620 Elizabeth St., Denver, CO 80206.

Montessori Teacher: (2-6). School in existence for 10 years. Program includes plants and animals, music and movement. Salary negotiable as well as hours. Send resume to: Munch-Kin Montessori, 145 Loring Rd., Duxbury, MA 02332. Duxbury is 35 minutes so. of Boston, MA.

IMS Montessori Schools

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Montessori School of Denver Denver, CO

The Montessori School of Denver is owned by a non-profit corporation. The director is **Lawrie Kimbrough**.

The school's program includes a full-day session for children ages 2-9 with day care services from 7:15 to 6:00 p.m. daily. A half-day session for children 2-6 is also offered.

Special features of the school include music, parent education and a summer Montessori program. Future planning for the school is to expand the elementary program to serve children up to the age of 12.

For further information, contact: Lawrie Kimbrough, Montessori School of Denver, 1460 S. Holly, Denver, CO 80222 (303) 756-9441.

Montessori Academy of Temple Terrace Temple Terrace, FL

The Montessori Academy of Temple Terrace is directed by **Sonia Johnson**. The school serves an enrollment of sixty children ages 2-6 with full and half-day sessions daily. Day care services are provided from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. daily.

Special program features include art, music and parent education. A summer Montessori program is also offered.

For further information, contact: Sonia Johnson, Montessori Academy of Temple Terrace, 5804 Gibson Ave., Temple Terrace, FL 33617 (813) 988-8041.

New Horizon Montessori Louisville, TN

The New Horizon Montessori School is under the direction of **Aleta Leden-**

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Address correction requested

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OBSERVER
The Montessori



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Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 589-1127

Local Program Manager:
Katherine Grattan, Director
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620 McDonald Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
(707) 544-7074

MONTESSORI TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

- IMS Certification
- Materials Workshop
(Aug. 2-20, 1982; Santa Rosa, CA)
- Independent Study
- Internship in Montessori School

Call or Write for Application and Catalog

IMS Montessori Schools ...

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decker. The school offers two half-day programs 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. However, children may stay beyond their normal hours of enrollment when necessary. A full-day session is also available at the primary (2-6) and elementary (6-9) level.

Special program features include dance, day care, French, parent education and gymnastics. For further information, contact: Aleta Ledendecker, New Horizon Montessori School, Rt. 3, Box 415-A, Cumberland Dr., Louisville, TN 37777 (615) 970-4322.

The Willows Academy Dallas, TX

The Willows Academy is sponsored by a non-profit corporation. **Susan Calvert** is the director.

The school offers full and half-day

sessions for children ages 2-6. Day care services are provided daily 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Special features of the school include art, music, dance and parent education. For further information, contact: Susan Calvert, The Willows Academy, 6318 Willow Lane, Dallas, TX 75230 (214) 661-5345.

Meadowlark Montessori School Casper, WY

The Meadowlark Montessori School is owned by a non-profit corporation. **Dr. Sam T. Scaling** is the school administrator.

The school offers daily half-day and full-day sessions for children 2-6. Parent education is also provided.

For further information, contact: Dr. Sam T. Scaling, Meadowlark Montessori School, 531 South Durbin, Casper, WY 82601 (307) 265-0249.

IMS Membership: Montessori school members acknowledge their commitment to Montessori principles as set forth in IMS membership criteria. Write to IMS for membership application and criteria.

IMS Membership Directory— Due May, 1982

The new IMS Membership Directory (Spring, 1982) is next due for publication in May, 1982.

This new directory will list all IMS members in good standing as of May 1, 1982. Membership listings will be separated into the three categories: individuals, associated schools and Montessori schools.

To assure listing, send appropriate membership fee and application to IMS.