



The Montessori

# OBSERVER

Integrity

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Child working in classroom at the Martin Luther King Montessori School in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. See article this page.

## The Last Resort

Physical punishment of children — a “last resort” for some teachers to maintain “control” in the classroom — persists as a major element of the public school systems of several industrialized countries including Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States. The Committee to End Violence Against the Next Generation (EVAN-G) reports that corporal punishment in the United States public schools is permitted today in all but four of the fifty states in this country.

EVAN-G is working to end corporal punishment in the schools as an important first step to reducing the incidence of child abuse in society. In its publication, “*The Last Resort*”, EVAN-G reported that since corporal punishment was banned in Swedish schools in 1962, the percentage of parents who believe that punishment of children is necessary has dropped significantly.

EVAN-G argues that if child abuse could be so reduced in the United States, crime would likewise decrease considerably since four out of five convicts were abused as children.

In a recent issue of “*The Last Resort*”, EVAN-G included some essays by children aimed to convince the American people of the harm and ineffectiveness of punishment to children. In one essay, a child related personal experiences

## Schools Begin Elementary Programs

Many Montessori schools for children 2-6 now recognize the need and concern to extend their programs to serve children over the age of six. This need is often strongly reinforced by parents who see the benefits of the Montessori primary environment with their young children and wish to continue this favorable development during the elementary years.

An effective Montessori elementary program enhances and extends the child’s “normalization” experience which occurred in the primary Montessori environment. The principles of “cosmic education” and “adaptation” — essential aspects of the Montessori elementary environment — are natural extensions of Montessori primary education. Traditionally trained elementary teachers may distort the child’s natural course of development and defeat the unique purpose of Montessori education at the elementary level.

The main difficulty with developing elementary level Montessori classes lies in the lack of properly trained teachers. The Montessori teacher trained at the primary level (2-6) normally lacks certain essential knowledge and skills needed to create an appropriate environment for the 6-12 year old child.

Montessori schools which hire traditionally trained elementary school teachers for their elementary program may find that their efforts to train such individuals in Montessori skills and knowledge are inadequate to compensate for the teacher’s non-Montessori background and experience. Such non-Montessori elementary programs can considerably distort and hamper the child’s natural expression of “normalization” realized at the primary level of the school’s program.

The most effective means of developing a Montessori elementary program may be for Montessori schools to train one of their own Montessori primary teachers. Appropriate training is offered by IMS in its elementary independent study course designed specifically for Montessori primary teachers.

The IMS elementary independent study course guides the Montessori primary teacher through a series of

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## IMS Montessori School Members

IMS presently recognizes schools in Canada, Peru, Puerto Rico and 28 states of the United States through its special membership program for Montessori schools. Membership criteria is based on an expressed commitment to Montessori principles in the operation of their school programs. School members in New York and Indiana are featured here.

### Ft. Wayne, Indiana

The Martin Luther King Montessori School was established in 1968 under a non-profit corporation to serve the needs of the poor, inner-city community of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The program began with 18 children and now has a total enrollment of 140 children aged 2-6.

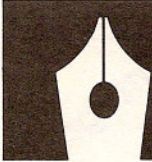
This IMS member school is directed by Lee Bailey who is responsible to a governing board which includes parents of the children attending. Funding is provided primarily by the United Way of Allen County and several churches including the Catholic Diocese and the Methodist Conference. By its corporate by-laws, 95% of the children must be from below average income levels in the community. Both full-day and half-day sessions are provided.

A special feature of the school is a health program run by volunteers which screens each child for vision, hearing, speech and dental needs. Transportation and a nutritional program are also provided.

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### Reminder

*To make sure that you keep receiving your Montessori Observer newsletter, please renew your membership subscription promptly. The expiration date of your membership should be clearly visible on the mailing label.*



# Integrity

The Montessori environment — committed to the effective application of the principles of “observation”, “individual liberty” and “preparation of the environment” — reflects a quality of absolute integrity within the individual classroom teacher. Such integrity is essential to the creation of a complete commitment to Montessori principles.

Parents and teachers whose behavior is persistently detrimental and ineffective with children reflect a fundamental lack of integrity with respect to the commitment required in Montessori education. This lack of integrity is readily apparent in statements such as: “I will apply Montessori principles with children to the extent that the parents don’t object.” Such conditional statements — hostile to effective Montessori education — reflect the limited notion of “integrity” common in adult society.

## Integrity in Society

In adult society, “integrity” is normally perceived as limited by external circumstances; e.g., “I will perform as agreed *provided* the circumstances are favorable.” The *absolute* integrity required in Montessori education does not fit within this limited, conditional notion of “integrity.”

## Integrity in Montessori

The quality of integrity required in Montessori education is *absolute* — an unconditional statement of commitment to Montessori principles, independent of external circumstances. Such an absolute integrity defines a state of being in which the conventional limitations of society are transcended.

## Inherent Integrity

Absolute integrity, independent of external circumstances, reflects the “inherent integrity” within each individual to follow a course of action in complete harmony and absolutely appropriate with one’s entire present circumstances. Such absolute integrity is consistently reflected by one’s state of being complete in the present moment.

## Present Moment

The reality of the present moment — the normal experience of the young child — defines no fixed circumstances and includes all possibilities. The possibility of absolute integrity with regard to Montessori principles exists within this unique reality. To realize one’s ultimate integrity in the present moment, the notion of “impossibility” must be engaged and resolved.

## Impossibility

“Impossibility” — as a fundamental barrier with regard to Montessori principles — is reflected by the statement: “a ‘complete’ commitment to Montessori principles is *impossible*.” The challenge and opportunity of such a statement is to “*do the impossible*.” Montessori teachers, committed to the effective application of Montessori principles, follow such an “impossible” course of action in the classroom. To follow this Montessori approach to the child compels action outside of reason and conventional logic. Such action requires a courageous act of will.

## Will

When an individual’s conscious act of will is to restrain one’s behavior inconsistent with Montessori principles, one transcends the conventional limitations of “impossibility.” Such courageous acts of will — each one apparently small in itself — demonstrate the quality of one’s inherent integrity. One’s absolute integrity with respect to Montessori principles is ultimately revealed by the emergence of the child’s true nature — loving order and constructive activity, independent, joyful and spontaneously self-disciplined.

## The Last Resort

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with her fourth grade teacher who used a “*bunch of rulers tied together with rubber bands*” for hitting children on the hands. Noting her own experience with this punishment, she stated: “*It hurts! I learned to hate both the school and that teacher.*”

Another victim of corporal punishment related how his hatred and fear of punishment at his first school was replaced by a sense of trust and cooperation when he finally changed to a Montessori school. He wrote (in his own words): “*When I went to my second School Germantown Montesory school if I did something bad they would teach me not to do those bad things and would act like they loved me.*”

Through its newsletter, the “Last Resort” and its various other programs and activities, EVAN-G aims to educate the public about the adverse effects of corporal punishment. Ultimately, EVAN-G aims to secure for posterity “a more peaceful, creative, successful and intelligent society.” IMS applauds the important work undertaken by this organization. For further information, contact: EVAN-G, 977 Keeler Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

## IMS Montessori School Membership

Is your school committed to the effective application of Montessori principles? If so, IMS invites you to publicly acknowledge this commitment through IMS Montessori school membership. For an annual fee of \$45.00, your school receives a certificate of membership and listing in the IMS Membership Directory. Additional benefits include:

1. One-year subscription to “Montessori Observer”;
2. 20% discount on all IMS Montessori publications;
3. 10% discount on outdoor activity equipment;
4. Free issues of IMS “Montessori News” for distribution to parents;
5. “Montessori” bumper sticker; ... and much more.

Send fee with response form to apply or write directly to:

IMS, 912 Thayer Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Look for the  
March Observer  
featuring  
**Courage**

## The Montessori Observer

published by  
INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI SOCIETY  
912 Thayer Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 589-1127  
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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## Book Review

### The Making of Music

By Hestia Abeyesekera

"The Making of Music" is an instructional plan to introduce the piano to the young child. In this publication, Hestia offers parents and teachers her unique experience as a Montessori teacher, musician and composer of songs for the Montessori classroom (*Learning Through Music, Observer, Jan. / 1983*).

This ten-unit, two-volume series of lessons follows closely the Montessori rationale of progressive sensorial experiences. One volume is for the child's work and exercises; one volume is a teacher's manual with precise instructions and guidance for each lesson.

Hestia's instructional approach begins with exercises to recognize the keyboard as a repeating pattern of black and white notes. Subsequent lessons consider rhythm patterns introduced through simple songs and chordal patterns using a simple color coding scheme. Large illustrations and special finger exercises enable the child to readily internalize a considerable amount of basic musical knowledge through the senses.

"The Making of Music" provides a very useful guide for parents and teachers to assist the young child in developing its interest in "making music" on the piano.

For further information, contact: Hestia Abeyesekera, 3503 Sumter Ave., So. St. Louis Park, MN 55426, (612) 933-5125.

## Announcements

**Simmons College** (Boston, MA) will hold an institute from July 5 to July 22, 1983 entitled "Do I Dare Disturb the Universe?"; subject concerns the moral intensity of literature for children. For further information, contact: Georgia L. Bartlett, Center for Study of Children's Literature, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115, (617) 738-2258.

**Montessori Association of New England (M.A.N.E.)** invites Montessori school owners and directors to join their "Administrative Support Group" which meet monthly in the Boston, MA area. Issues considered by this group include the problems Montessori schools face dealing with the Massachusetts Office for Children. For further information, contact: Martha Logue, 130 Pleasant St., Lexington, MA 02177.

## Elementary Programs

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lessons dealing with Montessori principles, observation, child development and materials aimed specifically for the elementary child. "Cosmic education" and "adaptation" are thoroughly covered through such activities as reading assignments in the IMS study guide and various required Montessori texts.

Since all lessons are completed through the mail according to one's own schedule, there is very little interference with the teacher's regular classroom duties. Individuals completing this course will have a basic foundation in applying Montessori principles with the elementary aged child. In addition, graduates are eligible to participate in subsequent phases of IMS elementary training leading eventually to IMS elementary certification.

For application and information about the IMS elementary independent study course, contact: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 589-1127.

## School Members

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The school's informative and creative newsletter, "Montessori Matters," reflects a very high degree of professional expertise. Articles in the Fall/Winter issue featured an abundance of news about the programs and activities of the children. One article included this statement "On the first cold day of the year, Narlin Clancy said 'There's smoke coming out of my mouth; there must be a fire in my stomach.'"

For further information, contact: Ms. Lee Bailey, Executive Director, Martin Luther King Montessori School, 326 East Wayne St., Ft. Wayne, IN 46802, (219) 743-4846.

## Massapequa, New York

The Montessori Children's School in Massapequa, NY is one of three Montessori schools directed by **Bernard Sherwin**. Mr. Sherwin and his wife, Sharleene, also serve as classroom teachers.

This IMS member school provides two full-day Montessori classes for children ages 3-6. Special program features include art, music and a summer Montessori program.

Mr. Sherwin's school is associated with "United Private Schools," a state-wide support organization of Montessori and other private schools. This organization has recently been considering what action to take to protect private schools in New York from the restrictive and burdensome state regulations.

For further information, contact: Bernard Sherwin, Montessori Children's School, Central & Jerusalem Aves., Massapequa, NY 11758, (516) 541-6365.

# Positions & Placements

**Montessori teacher:** large Montessori-oriented classroom for ages 6-12. School in existence for 14 years; elementary program is 6 years old. School near Indianapolis and Indiana University. Must be willing to be a team member in a multi-teacher situation. Send photo and brief resume and references to: Merry Carmichael, Directress, ABC/Stewart School, 2225 Grissom St., Columbus, IN 47201.

**Montessori teachers:** (3-6) and K-1. Small classes planned for first year. Salary information available on request. Call or write Kathleen Bird, Down East Montessori School, 40 Lemont St., Bath, ME 04530, (207) 442-7550.

**Instructors:** Cultural Subjects, Language, Kodaly Music. For IMS Elementary materials workshop. Summer, 1983, 1984. Send resume to: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**Montessori Elementary Teachers:** (6-9) & (9-12) trained elementary teacher for 1983. School is ten years old. Has three (3-6) classes, transitional class and two (6-9) classes. Call or send resume to Sr. Deanna, Montessori Child Development Center, 620 Elizabeth St., Denver, CO 80206, (303) 333-9478.

**Montessori teachers:** two teaching positions available at Alexandria Montessori Junior High. One with strong background and experience in math/science and the other in social studies with interest in curriculum development. School has been in existence for the past three years. Salary is in the range of \$18,000 - \$24,000 a year, with full medical benefits. Send resume to: Mr. Dirgham Salah, 6300 Florence Lane, Alexandria, VA 22310.

# Marketplace

**Learning Through Music, by Hestia.** Active songs designed for Montessori classroom. Also, wide selection of children's records/cassettes. Artists include: **Tom Glazer, Ella Jenkins, Hap Palmer, Barry Polisar.** Write for inventory. Send a SASE to: *Spectrum Records*, 11507 Hitching Post Ln., Rockville, MD 20852.

**Montessori . . . Creating the New Education.** IMS publication answers the question "What is Montessori?" Send \$1.00 to: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

"Montessori" bumper stickers. Show support for Montessori education in the community. Distribute to parents. \$1.00 ea., \$0.60 ea. in quantities over 10. Send order to: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

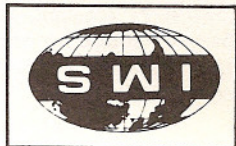
**School consultation.** IMS review of school and classroom environment based on IMS membership criteria. On-site visit and written report included. For information, write: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Address correction requested

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Lee Havis, *Director*

**Elementary Level (6 - 12)**

*Course features include:*

- Credit towards IMS Montessori elementary certification
- 19 lessons in: Montessori Principles, Observation, Child Development, and Montessori elementary materials
- All assignments sent through mail
- IMS Elementary Study Guide and required texts
- Montessori classroom observations

**Primary Level (2 - 6)**

*Course features include:*

- Credit towards IMS Montessori primary certification
- 22 lessons in: Montessori Principles, Observation, Child Development, and Montessori primary materials
- All assignments sent through mail
- IMS Primary Study Guide and required Montessori texts
- Montessori classroom observations

# Montessori News

**Subscription and Circulation**

The *Montessori News* is published by IMS several times each year to extend knowledge and information about Montessori principles to parents and others throughout the general public. The *News* normally contains a book order form and IMS independent study course information.

This useful IMS publication is provided free to IMS members. IMS Montessori school members receive a bulk mailing of additional free copies for distribution to parents.

Bulk mailings of the *News* will be provided to non-Montessori member schools at the rate of \$0.20 per copy. Quantities over 100 are \$0.10 per copy. A single free copy will be sent to non-members upon request.

Send order for additional issues of the *Montessori News* to: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910. Prepayment is required.

**In January 1983 Issue . . .**

- *IMS School Consultation*
- *IMS Independent Study Courses*
- *Outdoor Activity Equipment*
- *MCP Primary Readers*
- *Step-Up Books*
- *MONTESSORI . . . Creating the New Education*
- *Managing Misbehavior*
- *"Montessori" bumper stickers*

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This series of phonetically controlled story books for young children are packaged in four sets of ten different readers.

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- Set 2 *Long Vowels*
- Set 3 *Consonent blends*
- Set 4 *Consonent digraphs*

Each set is \$7.96. Complete four set series is \$31.83 plus \$3.50 postage / handling. Order form is in "*Montessori News*." 20% discount for IMS members. Send orders to: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.