

AMI Orientation for Ages 0-3

The **Montessori Orientation Course for Ages 0-3** is an introduction to the developmental characteristics and needs of children ages 0-3. It supports understanding of this developmental stage for parents, caregivers, school staff, or any individual seeking general knowledge about Montessori developmental theory and education. Successful participation in all Orientation Course Requirements leads to award of the AMI Orientation Course 'Certificate of Completion' at the 0-3 level.

Focus of the AMI Orientation Course for Ages 0-3

- To gain general knowledge of the Montessori approach to childhood development and education
- To explore how an adult can best support optimal development for this age group in any environment and as needed, to identify and remove obstacles to optimal development
- To understand the unique nature of the 0-3-year-old child's mind, the powers for development active at this stage, and the needs and characteristics of children at this stage of development
- To understand the general importance of Observation as a basis for providing developmental support of 0-3-year-old children in any environment

Duration and Structure of the AMI Orientation Course for Ages 0-3

- The course requires sixty hours of student engagement plus nine hours of child observation
- On-line part-time over 13 weeks
- Nine hours of observation of children aged 0-3
- Successful completion of the course requires a minimum of 90% attendance for student engagement, the 9 hours of child observation and required course work

Further requirements to be completed by the student

- Submission of three essays (500 words each)
- Observation Report

Course Programme

- General Introduction to Montessori Theory and Education, to include an overview of the Four Planes of Development and the Human Tendencies, with special reference to the needs and characteristics of children at different stages within the ages 0-3
- The role of an adult as a collaborator and facilitator in a 0-3-year-old's self-construction
- The role of an environment in providing necessary conditions to support a 0-3-year-old child's self-construction: the Home; Montessori Nido; the Montessori Infant Community
- The importance of observation: purpose, technique and self-reflection, as appropriate for ages 0-3
- The Child's Self-Construction and Cultural Adaptation, to include:
 - The Absorbent Mind
 - The Sensitive Periods
 - The Importance of Order and Routine
 - The Development of Movement including the stages in Control and Coordination of Movement ages 0-3

- The Development and Refinement of Language, including the use of language in general, how to listen to children and elicit language from them
- The significance of Food, Clothing and Toileting during the ages 0-3
- The Development of Independence
- Social Development
- The Montessori concepts of Freedom and Limits
- Foundations for the development of spontaneous Self-Discipline

Required Reading

By Dr Maria Montessori

- Citizen of the World
- Education for a New World
- The Child in the Family

By Dr Silvana Montanaro

- Understanding the Human Being