

Introduction Seminar to the Montessori Method



MARIA MONTESSORI: HER METHOD FOR THE CHILD'S BODY AND MIND - ON ZOOM

Merigar East Gakyil in cooperation with *"tenera mente - onlus"* is happy to invite you for the **Introduction Seminar to the Montessori Method ON ZOOM**.

The **seminar** consists of **2 sessions each of 3 hours**, and is taught over a period of 2 weeks. The sessions will be held **every Tuesday from 18:00 till 21:00** Romanian time (EET) starting with the **first session on 6th October 2020** and finishing with the **second session on 13th October 2020**.

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The course is open to everybody who is interested in this Method, specifically:

- Educators of the children 3-6 years age
- Teachers of the first 2 years of primary school
- Support teachers of handicapped children
- Parents
- And especially grandparents who spend with our children soooo much time:)

In this course we will get acquainted with the **basic principles of the Montessori Method for children from 3 to 6**, as to practical life and sensorial knowledge leading to handwriting. Instructions will be given for the construction of some basic materials to be used on the path.

The participation fee is 49 Euro. The capacity of the course is limited to 25 connections. The course will be held in English language.

For more information and the registration please visit our website [here](#).

For any other information please contact us [here](#).

The Montessori Method is based both on an environment adapted to the child and on a teacher who is the discreet intermediary between the prepared environment and the child.

The educator does not “teach” the child because children learn by themselves; the teacher would observe each child, free to move in the adapted environment, and offers her/him those objects which can foster her/his development. By “environment” we mean a bright, well-kept, joyful space, with the same kind of furnishing and tools that children have at home, proportionated to their size and strength: little tables and chairs, low shelves, small carpets... and so on.

In this prepared environment all the objects are manageable and within their reach, because the first teacher’s aim is to make the child independent in learning: according to the Montessori Method the child builds up her/his knowledge by her/himself according to their interest and need.

“tenera mente – onlus”

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The first area of learning is the Practical Life, that is all the tasks we perform in daily life in order to live: dressing, washing, eating, drinking, etc.

The second area is constituted by the Sensorial Materials: objects scientifically conceived according to the decimal metric system. They not only help to give order and shape to perceptions (which are in themselves confused and disordered), but also introduce the child to geometry. Sensorial materials enable the child to perceive all the forms around her/him: planes, triangles, solids of all shapes and weight, etc.

The third area is the Language, which is not separated from the first two: each object of Practical Life and each element of the Sensorial Materials have a name, which the child will learn first by listening and analyzing their sounds, then by writing.

The materials of the Language are various and different: the sandpaper letters of the alphabet (each letter is rough, cut on sandpaper and glued on a smooth surface); the mobile alphabets (wooden boxes where each compartment contains each letter cut out of cardboard). With those letters (red the vowels, blue the consonants) the child will compose the words. Many other Language materials can be easily created by the teacher.

The fourth area is Mathematical Thinking. Using different materials, the child will learn to count by relating the symbol (number) and the quantity. For example, from 1 to 10 they are single pearls; 10 is 1 bar of 10 pearls; 100 is constituted by 10 bars of 10, composing a squared surface; 1000 is a cube composed by a pile of 10 squared surfaces of 100. Once acquired the knowledge of numbers from 1 to 1000, the child will be able to perform addition, multiplication, subtraction, division. The Montessori Method covers very wide areas of learning, but **in this course we will trace an essential path**, starting from the **use of the hand** up to **handwriting**.

It is the child who is entrusted with evolving human beings from their purely biological condition. Without its long childhood, humanity would still be in the stone age.

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Enrica Baldi, philosophy degree at the Sapienza University of Rome, met the Montessori method at the TCV (Tibetan Children's Village) in Dharamsala (India), where 2700 young Tibetans refugees study and live. Since 1974 the Village has adopted the Montessori method; impressed with the human quality of those children, once back in Rome she undertook the whole Montessori training for Educators of 0-3 and 3-6 years old children, with a total of 850h of frontal lessons and workshops. For 0-3 children she also has the diploma of Trainer of trainers.

Once she got those diplomas, she started some Montessori training for teachers, educators and caretakers of children in orphanages or schools of countries where children were experiencing hardships of various kinds: Romania, Cameroon, Armenia, Bosnia and Rwanda. Meanwhile, in the surroundings of Rome she also trained the staff of nursery schools with a high percentage of foreign children.

In 2009 she constituted **"tenera mente - onlus"** (**"tender mind - onlus"**), a non profit association promoting Montessori method all over the world.

In the last ten years she attained amazing results applying this method with people of various ages: primary school children with dysgraphia or some other learning difficulties; physically or mentally handicapped adults; old people suffering from Parkinson or Alzheimer.

Before Covid-19 she conducted two training and assistance modules at the Jewish Retirement Home in Rome. During the lockdown she gave a very successful course on Zoom for primary school support teachers.

Enrica Baldi met Chögyal Namkhai Norbu in 1984 and since then she has followed his teachings. She belongs to Zhenphenling, the Dzogchen Community of Rome. Her main practice is Tara. At the TCV - Dharamsala all orphan and semi-orphan children think of her as their own mother, in flesh and blood.

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