



Welcome to the pre-school education division of the

### **Centre for Educational Research and Developmental Studies!**

#### **Centre for Educational Research & Developmental**

**Studies**, (CERDS) is an organization, established to help meet the growing demand for Montessori teachers in India and abroad. Students from all states of India, Gulf countries, North America, Europe, South Africa, Australia, Singapore, Indonesia and Far East participate in various courses offered by CERDS. This course equips participants to educate children in the Montessori method, at the pre school level (3 to 6 years of age) anywhere in the world.

**Centre for Educational Research & Developmental Studies**, has been operating as an independent organization since 1999. The founder director, Mr. K.J. Thomas, has been involved in Montessori training for over fifteen years and has had extensive experience in state schools, Special Education Schools and in teacher training. Courses are all taught by Montessori trained graduates with personal teaching experience. In the field of distance learning, we have a skilled team, with great experience who can back up local tutors, worldwide and guarantee to give fast, efficient service to students, wherever they may be. We have facilities for supplying Montessori apparatus, teaching aids and Montessori educational books. We also assist in getting membership and registrations with Montessori Societies and Associations throughout the world.

Many ex-students are now either teaching in local Montessori Schools or have set up successful Montessori Houses of their own. Few fail to find employment at the end of the course (although, of course, we cannot guarantee employment or career advancement). Past students are now teaching in various parts of Europe, and as far as Hong-Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Kuwait, Bahrain,

UAE, Malaysia, USA, Australia and South Africa. Other ex-students

have found positions as teachers in the kindergarten/nursery departments of several Independent Preparatory Schools. Yet others are working with children with special educational needs.

## **OUR OBJECTIVE**

To spread awareness about Montessori Philosophies and Methodology to all corners of the world. To instill in every teacher, the light of the Montessori guiding spirit. To work towards betterment of Mankind. Common goal for peace.

## **OUR DREAM**

To let the Child BE.

## **OUR IDEALS**

- To constantly improve , research and upgrade our services.
- To provide student friendly curriculum and teaching methods.
- To reach out to the students through latest technology, keeping with the fast changing world around us.
- To provide complete support solutions to all our students.
- Spread the belief in the Montessori ideology and practices.
- Adhere to the philosophies of Dr. Montessori in all we do.

## **THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

### **Mr. K.J. Thomas , B.A., B.Ed., M.A., M.Ed., Dip. in Early Childhood Education**

Mr. Thomas, our founder, is an outstanding educationist whose achievements are an eloquent testimony to his unwavering devotion to the highest principles of educational philosophy and human values. A profound scholar, his short stories and informative articles are widely read and acclaimed. Regarded with reverence by students and teachers, Mr. Thomas has been hailed as an ideal teacher, powerful motivator and an excellent speaker. He has authored over 30 books and publications. His career in education spans over 40 years. He has taught from preschool to high schools in India, Africa, and the United States of America (USA). He has visited many Educational Institutions and Universities, Higher Secondary School and Montessori Schools in Europe and North America. He has acquired International Experience in Education and Employment during his teaching tenure in Nigeria and USA. Mr. Thomas conducts classes on Child Psychology, Life and work of Dr. Maria Montessori and Organization & Administration of a Montessori School at CERDS

### **Ms. Gracy Kuriakose , B.Sc. B.Ed.**

As an outstanding administrator, and a member of the governing council, Ms.Kuriakose supervises the smooth functioning of various systems at CERDS. She has valuable experience in school administration and teaching in various states of Nigeria and India. She is a widely read person, and is able to contribute knowledgeably to various managerial aspects .

### **Ms. Julie James B.Sc., AMM (NIFT), Dip. in Montessori,**

Ms. James is responsible for continuous upgradation of course content . Under her dedicated guidance, CERDS confidently assures all students, the quality of the course and support systems. Ms. James has great love for children and is an active supporter of the cause of the under privileged children.

### **Mr. Vinny Thomas , B.Sc., M.Sc.**

Mr. Thomas is a man of vision, who redefines the boundaries of excellence and growth at CERDS. He has successfully run many educational institutions. It is his endeavor, to offer specialized service for students who want to secure professional qualification and prepare students for the teaching professions. Mr. Thomas is in charge of the management of CERDS.

## **THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Mr. K.J. Sebastian** has over 25 years of administrative management and early childhood education experience. He underwent Montessori training under Mr. Joosten, who was the direct disciple of Dr. Maria Montessori in India. After completing his training in Ahmadabad, during the 1973 batch, he worked in several Montessori Houses and was instrumental in setting up several Montessori across the northern states of India. He is a true Montessorian, and has propagated the messages of Maria Montessori in several states of India. He has been involved in several child development projects under the Government of India. He is happily married and blessed with three children. He is the director of training at CERDS. Mr. Sebastian conducts the classes on the Montessori Philosophy at CERDS.

### **Mrs, Thresiamma Thomas**

Mr. Joosten during the 1968 batch in Ranchi. She has 30 years of teaching and administrative experience in several Montessori Environments. She has retired from FACT Montessori School in Cochin. Ms. Thresiamma conducts the classes on the Montessori Methodology at CERDS Ms.

**Maria Jomy** completed her bachelors and masters degree in Psychology and in Education, and has specialized in Child psychology. She has been a consultant psychologist to many educational institutions and corporate bodies. She is presently working with the Department of Education, Government of Kerala. Ms. Maria has conducted several workshops linked to child counseling, career counseling, study skills and personality development. Ms. Maria conducts the classes on Child Psychology at CERDS.

## **BOARD OF ADVISORS**

**Dr. M.G Jomon** , B.A., M.S.W, Ph.D(XLRI)

Xavier Institute of Management  
Bhubaneshwar, Orissa

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Morning Star School of Thought,  
Gudalur, Nilgiris

**Dr. Thayalan Tiburtious** , M.B.B.S., MD,  
Advent Medical Services (UK) Limited, London

**Mar. (Dr.)Mathew Moolakat**

Bishop of Kottayam,

**Adv. Rejini Thomas**, B.A., LLB

Makil Law Chambers, Kottayam

**Lt. Col. Jim James**,B.E. M. Tech.

Directorate General of Quality Assurance, New Delhi

**Dr. Philomina Simon**, M.B.B.S

Kirthi Hospital, Cherpunkal

**Ms. Anupama Chaudhari**,B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil.

B.L.S. College of Education, Sahidabad, New Delhi.

## **OTHER PEDAGOGICAL STAFF**

Ms. Susan Mathew is the supervisor for the practical session. She has had her training from CERDS and has worked as an assistant at CERDS since her completion of the Montessori training.

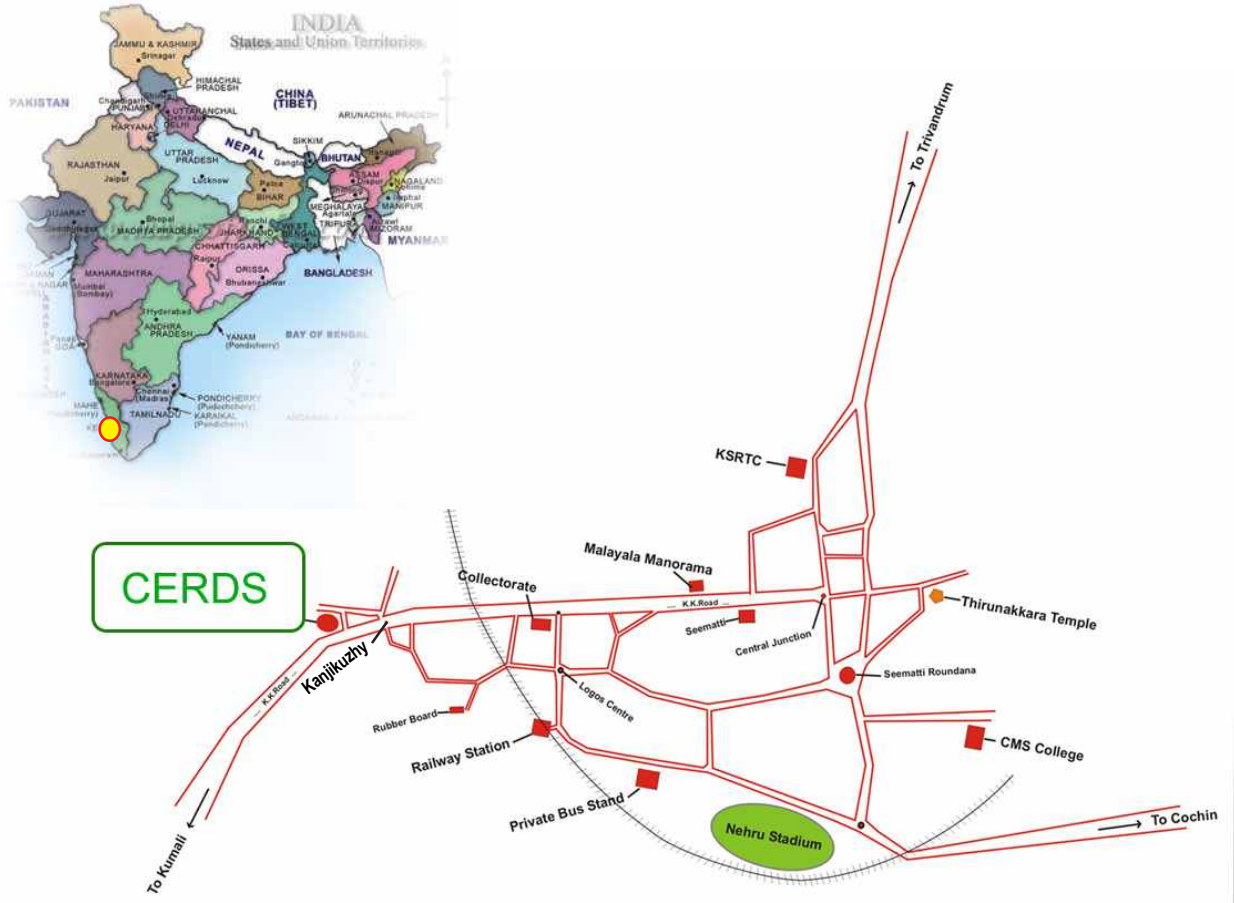
Ms. Swapna Sabuis trained at CERDS and looks after the House of Children at CERDS

Ms. Rajini Panicker is the office Manager and takes care of the smooth functioning of all departments.

Ms. Vijayamma takes care of the housekeeping also took the AMI Montessori Diploma course under the guidance of

## LOCATION

**Centre for Educational Research & Development Studies**, is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty near the backwaters of Kerala, India, within easy access of towns such as Kottayam, Cochin, Allapetty, Kumily, and Quilon. It is ideally placed for those who wish to study in a small, friendly, rural backwater setting.



The corporate head quarters of CERDS is at:

Centre for Educational Research & Developmental Studies, (CERDS),

IIInd Floor Sharon Building, K.K. Road,

Kottayam - 686004

Phone: 0481- 2577452

For more information email us at [info@cerds.com](mailto:info@cerds.com)

For admission, enrollment & dispatch details you may contact the corporate headquarters

Mr. Vinny Thomas

**Managing Director**

CERDS, 2nd Floor, Sharon Bldg, K.K. Road,

Kottayam, Kerala - 686004

Phone: 0418- 2577452, Mob: 09387304652,

E-mail Vinny@cerds.com

**For doubt clearance during the course, you may contact the doubts clearance cell.**

**Ms .Julie James**

**Course Coordinator,**

CERDS, 2nd Floor, Sharon Bldg, K.K. Road,

Kottayam, Kerala - 686004,

Ph: 0418- 2577452, Mob:9447130465

Email: julie@cerds.com

Applicants from **Europe** may get in touch with our information center in the **U.K.**

**Mr. Thomas J.**

84, Stokes Drive, Leicester LE3 9BS, U.K.,

Phone: 00441162221359,

Email: thomas@cerds.com

Applicants from **Africa** may get in touch with our information center in **South Africa**

**Ms. Shiny Mathew**

Shop # 3A, Palm Spring Centre, Springs, (Next to CNA), Johannesburgh, South Africa

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Phone: 0027-824467296, Fax: (011) 8152195

Applicants from the **Middle East** may get in touch with our information center in **Dubai**

**Mr. Taj Thomas**

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Emai: taj @cerds.com

## Who may do this course?

**Parents:** This course helps parents understand the natural laws of growth and self construction in a child. Thus as a parent, you can help the child to grow to his utmost potential , and not unwittingly hamper the path of nature and create unintended deviations in your child.

**For those who want to work with children:** This course is highly recommended for young people interested in helping small children. It is also of great value for future parenthood. Our students work for a teaching diploma examination and at the same time, they are helped to attain a higher standard of education themselves with the help of written and practical work. On completion of the course, one could find suitable jobs in Montessori environments.

**Teachers:** This course is recommended to all experienced teachers of young children who wish to gain insight into the best way to individualize their teaching curriculum, so that children of mixed abilities may work at their own pace. Teachers should consider this course as an up-gradation, and could implement the Montessori methodology in the conventional schools.

**People wishing to help handicapped children:** The course covers in detail the needs of the handicapped child. The entire course will benefit immensely anyone wishing to teach handicapped children and will enable such children to be integrated into the classrooms in preparation for life in the community.

**Students wishing to start their own Montessori School:** As well as giving all the benefits described above, the course includes a lesson on setting up a Montessori classroom or a Montessori School. Our team will give advice to any students who have successfully completed the course and who wish to start their own pre-school. We can advise on the location of premises/teachers/ equipment, enrolling new pupils, etc.

## Courses offered

**The Centre for Educational Research & Developmental Studies, (CERDS)**, offers a comprehensive, on-line & postal (6 months) and regular class room (1 year) course in Montessori Teacher Training for those wishing to work with, or be in charge of Montessori house of children in the age-group of 3 to 6 years. Graduates are awarded a Montessori Teaching Diploma for the Preschool level i.e. **Casa de Bambini**

Diploma in Montessori Teacher Training (Postal)

Diploma in Montessori Teacher Training (Online)

Diploma in Montessori Teacher Training (Regular)



## Diploma in Montessori Teacher Training (Postal)

Our professional correspondence diploma programs offer our students the freedom and time to acquire Montessori training and diplomas that they might otherwise be unable to receive. Distance Studies is available to anyone in any country around the world. Tutors guide students through course material, which students study at home in their own time. Many students make use of e-mail to correspond with tutors and all students have the facility to interact with the tutors through the discussion forum and chat facility on our website.

The Course material comprises of 4 sections, as follows:

- Section 1 - Child Psychology (2 parts)
- Section 2 - Montessori Philosophy (2 parts)
- Section 3 - Montessori Methodology (3 Parts)
- Section 4 - Organization & Administration of a Montessori School (1 part)

The course materials guide you through and at the end of each module; you are required to submit an assignment, which is subsequently evaluated and graded. You may start the distance learning course at any time (in other words, there is no specific beginning to the academic year) and however there will be due dates for your assignments - you will be required to submit the assignments of each module in thirty days time. Once you have completed an assignment, it must be clearly marked and sent (via post, or e-mail) to your tutor, who will mark it and notify you of your grade and any comments that the tutor may have. The course does not have a final exam. Once you have completed all eight assignments and two test papers, you will receive a diploma, which reflects an average of all the grades you have

achieved. In other words, your abilities are assessed by continuous evaluation of your work. The Diploma certificate will be issued to students who complete the course and have a pass grade in both test papers, within one month of completion of course. We believe that this is by far the most up-to-date and most comprehensive distance-learning course in Montessori teaching methods available anywhere in the world.

Students are allowed three months to one year in which to complete the course. On average, students complete the course in six months by putting in 1-hour study per day. However, the course may be done on a fast track mode and completed in 3 months, too. The course automatically expires at the end of one year from the date of joining. Extension of 6 months may be given under special circumstances, and subject to an extension fee.

Followed up by observation and training in a proper Montessori environment this course will equip you to work in, or run a Montessori House of children of your own. As a supplement to the course, we offer five-day workshops in various Cities, to demonstrate the Montessori tools.

Details of the workshop would be put up on the website by 30<sup>th</sup> of January each year.

## Diploma in Montessori Teacher Training (Online)

Online Studies is available for the first time from January 2005 to anyone in any country around the world. Students download course material via the Internet and tutors guide them through course material. This program includes all the literature and instructional materials needed to complete the course. Students make use of email to submit assignments and correspond with tutors. We have a chat facility at fixed times, and you could interact with your personal tutor during that time. You could also interact with other students and faculties by posting comments and statements on the discussion forum so that other participants and the faculty could comment on your observations.

The course aims to train people, in the comfort of their own homes, without pressure, at their own pace, the skills of teaching young children in the Montessori method for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Upon enrolling, you are assigned a personal tutor, whom you may contact (by fax, phone, or E-mail: [mypersonaltutor@cerds.com](mailto:mypersonaltutor@cerds.com)) if you require any advice or assistance. The course content, eligibility and criteria for award of Diploma remain same as that of the Postal course.

## Diploma in Montessori Teacher Training (Regular)

(Full-time Studies are available at Kottayam, in India only, at the moment). Students are required to attend the college three days a week, from 10.00am to 1.00pm during two terms. Our esteemed faculty will guide you through theory and philosophy of Maria Montessori and child psychology. There will also be inputs in the form of guest lectures, supervised practice, material making, observation of children in the Montessori house and teaching practice. This ten-month course will start in the month of July, every year, to be completed by April, the following year. Accommodation can be arranged for outstation & overseas students.

### **HANDS ON TRAINING**

CERDS organizes one month long observation and training to deserving students, in reputed Montessori Houses in India, as part of the curriculum of the regular course.

## **PREPARATION OF MANUALS**

The superb, curriculum manuals are prepared, with the guidance of the instructor, to become your lifetime teacher resource guide.

## **AWARD OF THE DIPLOMA**

The Diploma is awarded on satisfactory completion of the course, which is assessed by: Written coursework, set throughout the course in the form of tutorials at the end of each semester. Production of reference files on the practical materials. Making of language and cultural teaching materials. Semester exam results. Detailed observations of children & submission of Internship Report

Passing marks must be obtained on written examinations conducted by the Examiners. Admission to the training course does not guarantee certification. The examination may only be taken twice. The diploma will help you to get a job in India and around the world.

## **PLACEMENT GUIDANCE**

Most of the students who pass out from CERDS find immediate employment, on their own, either in the Montessori Houses where they intern or in schools in their home towns. The demand for Montessori trained teachers is large and even ordinary schools prefer to take Montessori qualified teachers for their pre-school division. CERDS has a placement cell, which assists students in finding suitable employment around the globe. Interested candidates may register their name for placements in India and abroad.

## **ADMISSIONS**

Our student's qualifications range from senior secondary school to Post graduate level. This course is also suited for ladies, who want to teach their own siblings, if they don't want to send them to school up to 5 years of age. Also Heads of convents and reputed schools recommend our course. We have on our rolls, students from the families of Personnel of the three wings of the Armed Forces of India. Most of our students undergoing the course are currently serving in schools.

Students come from a wide variety of cultures; backgrounds and age groups to attend the program. From students taking a gap year before entering university, to people in their twenties and thirties wishing to embark upon a career change to Montessori education; from parents with young or older children to grandparents interested in finding out about how the Montessori Method can help their grandchildren. Some already possess advanced qualifications such as first or higher degrees or are qualified nursery nurses; others have little in the way of formal qualifications but have much to contribute from personal experience either with their own children or from experience in the classroom. We welcome and have trained male as well as female students for pre school education.

Candidates who are aged 18-21 years normally required to successfully complete 'A' levels or its equivalent (e.g. Senior Secondary School Leaving Certificate, International Baccalaureate or GNVQ 3). To enroll for the program you are required to download and print the application form from our website, print it at your end then fill the form, attach your photo, photocopy of your credentials and the course fee. You may forward all these to:

## Center for Educational Research & Developmental Studies, (CERDS)

IIInd Floor, Sharon Building, K.K.Road, Kottayam - 686004

Phone: +91-481-2577452, 094471-30465

You may also enroll online, pay the fee through your credit card and access the courseware online. In some exceptional cases, we have had students with lesser qualifications admitted to the course and successfully completing the program. Students without the minimum qualifications may be accepted, subject to their being able to demonstrate that they could cope successfully with the work.

### ADMISSION TO MATURE STUDENTS

Mature students, aged 22 years, and above are accepted on the basis of their personal qualities and experience. No specific examination passes are required. Persons with good knowledge of English language and love for children and enjoys the company of children are capable of doing the Montessori Training Program. If you would like to apply to this course under the mature students category, you are requested to sent the following to CERDS:

- Your life sketch (details of your life story or cv)
- A detailed statement from you on why you want to do a Montessori training program, highlighting your strong points. This should be written in English language and should be in your own words.
- Work experience certificate (if any) from your previous employers.

The Academic Council will analyze your various activities in the past and determine your ability to do the course. You will get intimation from Council within two weeks from the time of your application. To be considered as a mature student or as a student without the minimum qualification you may email us [admissions@cerds.com](mailto:admissions@cerds.com)

### COSTS

#### CORRESPONDENCE COURSE FEE

The fee can be paid in any of the following currencies. The preferred method is to pay by credit card.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Indian Rupees For resident Indians	Rs5000.00
For Non resident Indian (NRIs)	Rs10, 000.00
Foreigners could pay the Fee in any of the following currencies	
Indian Rupees	Rs 15000.00
United States Dollars	\$ 400.00
British Pounds	£300.00
South African Rands	R 3,000.00

The fee includes eight modules of the courseware, tutorial support, marking, and certification. The course materials will be couriered to your door within 7 days of acceptance to the course and receipt of payment. Once the application is approved, the course fee is non-refundable.

## REGULAR COURSE

Full time regular classroom course

Rs15000.00

Resident Indians, may enroll for the POSTAL course for Montessori training, by filling in the attached application form and mail a demand draft for Rs.5000/- in favor of "CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESERCH & DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES (CERDS)", payable at Kottayam by registered post or courier. On receipt of the completed form & the payment, printed, highly valuable lesson notes of International standard will be sent to you immediately by speed post or courier. Assignments will be mailed one after the other. Each assignment will be evaluated for internal assessment.

You may also enroll online, pay the fee through your credit card and access the courseware online. To enroll online, download the online registration form by clicking on the link Enroll online Today. You may download and print the application form at your end, fill the form, attach your photo, photocopy of your credentials and the course fee, and forward all these to these to CERDS.

Non-resident Indians and foreign nationals may also follow the same admission process and fill in the same application forms, however will be required to pay the NRI/foreigners fee. Payments could be made through any one of the following methods: credit card, Indian Rupee bank draft, US Dollar bank draft drawn on a reputed International Bank or telegraphic transfer (wire). All demand drafts should be in favor of "CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESERCH & DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES (CERDS)". To wire funds to us, you may file an application to your banker with our bank details. Our bank details are as follows:

Beneficiary Bank A/c	626 70 500 8566 (CERDS)
Beneficiary Bank	ICICI Bank, Kottayam
Correspondent Bank	JP Morgan Chase Bank
Correspondent Bank A/c No.	001-1-427374 CHIPS ULD No. 340828
SWIFT Code	CHASUS33XXX
Fed. Routing	No. 02100 0021

## COURSE STRUCTURE

In designing this course, the CERDS team has aimed at giving you an understanding of the Montessori Method and an insight into the applications of the Montessori Tools.

**Child Psychology:** A study of the human development from birth to adulthood, the physical and psychology aspects of the child between three and six years. The child is seen as the constructor of the adult. Dr. Maria Montessori refined her theory of child psychology, borrowing heavily from the sciences of biology and psychology. She described childhoods as a process in which a hidden but definite plan of nature unfolds as the child works to create the adult personality.

**Montessori Philosophy:** Focus is on the concepts of Montessori principles, such as the **Absorbent Mind**, **Sensitive Periods** and the **Human Tendencies**, which are the subconscious powers, which guide the child in his self-construction.

*Freedom:* within a structured environment. The child is allowed to move around freely talking to other children and working with the equipment, which she/he chooses after demonstration of its use, by the teacher. However, she/he is not allowed to abuse the equipment or disturb other children, thereby limiting their freedom to work.

*Independence:* the child's natural need for independence is encouraged.

*Self-discipline:* this is gradually developed through freedom of movement and freedom of choice.

*Concentration:* children are encouraged to concentrate by being introduced to materials at the right developmental level for them, and to complete each activity.

*Reality and Nature:* the value of growing up in close contact with nature. Children need real objects rather than imitation playthings, which do not work.

*Beauty:* the environment should be aesthetically pleasing, simple and clean.

*Social awareness:* this is aided by placing children in 'family' or mixed age groups.

*Order:* both materials and the environment promote order. Children usually feel comfortable in an ordered classroom where they understand the routine.

*Respect:* children have to be respected as being different from adults and as individuals who differ from each other.

*Sensitive periods:* children have times in their lives when they are particularly attuned to certain types of learning.

*Co-operation with parents:* schools are part of the local community; children learn most effectively when a partnership exists between the child, parent and teacher and she/he is allowed to do things by him/herself.

*Additionally,* the curriculum includes the organization and administration of a new 'Montessori House of Children'. It also deals with tackling various responsibilities involved while merging into an existent classroom and adapting to the children. It offers training in the technique of objective observation, material making, record maintenance, evaluation, parent orientation, and parent education, etc.

**Montessori Methodology:** The theory deals with the origin and development of the Montessori method. Also dealt in detail are the role and the training of the adult as 'Montessori Directress' and the function of the 'Prepared Environment' as a cohesive and scientific environment to self-formation of the child.

*The Importance of the Early Years:* when young children possess an 'absorbent mind' and learn far more easily and effectively.

*Montessori materials:* These are a key element in the environment, as the child learns through the materials, many of which are self-correcting, rather than directly through the teacher. The role of the teacher in the Montessori classroom is different from that of the traditional teacher. The Montessori teacher first observes the child to ascertain his/her interests and developmental level, and then gently directs the child towards appropriate activities so that she/he learns for him/herself through the environment and through the specially designed educational materials.

Montessori tools can be grouped into 5 areas of activities.

## **PRACTICAL LIFE**

In the Practical Life area, children carry out familiar home activities, such as sweeping, polishing, dusting, pouring, preparing foods, etc. These activities are designed to help the child achieve independence and confidence through meaningful activity with real life objects; they help develop coordination, concentration, independence, hand dexterity, care of one's self and environment, patience and grace and courtesy.

## **SENSORIAL MATERIAL**

The Sensorial Material allows the child to understand his environment while learning through his senses. Each piece of material has one isolating quality, such as colour, weight, size, shape, texture, sound, smell, etc., which enables the child to take in impressions with true understanding and gives purpose, order and structure to his/her learning. Montessori materials are didactic and allow the child to see his/her mistakes and correct them, which develops perseverance and a positive self-image and attitude towards mistakes.

## **LANGUAGE**

Many activities are designed to proceed naturally towards the development of skills for reading and writing. The child first learns the phonetic sound of the letters, which leads to Building short phonetic words, he/she progresses at his/her own pace to reading longer phonetic words and is finally introduced to the different parts of grammar.

## **MATHEMATICS**

The child is introduced to Mathematics through the use of concrete materials. By working with the specially designed materials, he/she learns the physical quantities and matching abstract symbols. The child always works from the concrete to the abstract. By working with concrete materials, the child can see and understand the operations of Addition, Multiplication, Subtraction and Division. A solid foundation is formed for Algebra and Geometry through working with concrete materials.

## **CULTURAL SUBJECTS**

We introduce the children to Cultural Subjects (Geography, History, Botany, Zoology, Science, Music and Art) to help feed their imagination and understanding of the real world during the time that they are most sensitive to them, which enables them to understand their role and the fact that they are part of the whole system.

## **WHAT IS THE MONTESSORI METHOD ?**

The Montessori system of education, named after Dr. Maria Montessori has today, become synonymous with pre-school education. Her concepts revolutionized the way the world saw small children.

She referred to the mind of a child between 3 & 6 years of age, as the Absorbent Mind. During this time he literally absorbs everything in his environment through sensorial exploration. By sensorially absorbing the surroundings, a child forms his personality and himself. He constructs his mind, his memory, power to understand and ability to think through impressions gained from the environment.

Educational research has also verified that the early years are the most important years of a child's life. It is during the period between conception and four years that the child develops 50-60 % of his intelligence and another 30% between the ages 4 to 8 years. Very little develops after that.

Today each parent wants to give their child the best education, however they have grown to realize that academic achievement alone will not prepare their child for life. Each child has certain vital needs as it grows up. In an academic environment these needs are generalized, hence these needs may be overlooked. However Montessori education strives to fulfill these individual needs.

Dr. Maria Montessori believed that a child has the inbuilt tendency to learn by himself. The child is the constructor of the adult. Mother Nature has endowed the child with necessary powers to fulfill this task. The child achieves various levels of growth, within the time spans fixed by nature. We have no control over them. All he needs is an encouraging environment, which fulfills his developmental needs.

The key elements of the **Montessori method are Self-education, individual instruction , didactic materials**, a specially **prepared environment** and the **trained directress**.

A Montessori school provides prepared environments for children at each successive developmental plane where children are given freedom to work according to their inner urges. The child's natural interest in learning is encouraged by giving opportunities in spontaneous, purposeful activities with the guidance of a trained adult. Within a framework of order eliminating the bane of competition, the children progress at their own pace and rhythm, according to their individual capabilities. These environments allow them to take responsibility for their own education. A sophisticated balance between liberty and discipline is prevalent.

Maria Montessori's fame is largely due to the apparatus to which her name has been given and to the result it produces while bringing out the hidden learning powers of the child. Younger children are intensely attracted to these materials and use them spontaneously, independently, repeatedly and with deep concentration.

These materials are precision made, beautiful and enticing. The outstanding feature of these materials are that they have built-in "control-of-error" by which the child is enabled to judge his/her performance objectively and independently and to truly learn from one's mistakes. A Montessori school is equipped with more than 100 different types of Montessori Apparatus, classified into Sensorial Material, Language Material, Arithmetic Material, and so on. Practical Life Exercises, through the use of Sensorial Material, instill care for themselves, for others and the environment. Using this material, children learn to grade and classify impressions. They do this by touching, seeing, smelling, tasting, listening and exploring the physical properties of their environment, through these specially designed materials.

The role of a trained Montessori teacher is that of an observer whose ultimate goal is to intervene less and less as the child develops. The teacher creates an atmosphere of order and joy. **Knowing how to observe constructively and when, and how much, to intervene is one of the most important talents that the Montessori teacher acquires during a rigorous course of training.**

The teacher's role is to provide the right environment for the child and make sure that the child can work at his own development in peace and freedom. The adult should understand that it is the child who has to achieve his goals. The adult cannot do it for him. Therefore, the adult should learn not think, " I have to mould my child. I have to make him a doctor, engineer etc." The role of building the child is that of nature and the child himself.

For ordinary schools, education is same as literacy, but Maria Montessori calls it as " an aid to life", making the Montessori system, a highly successful learning concept that has been acclaimed the world over.

“Knowledge is necessary, but not sufficient. The well educated person is a well developed person who knows how to live a healthy life in every aspect of human existence— a well developed personality.”  
– M. Montessori

## **A COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL PRE-SCHOOL AND MONTESSORI**

### **Traditional**

Rigid Curriculum  
Progresses at teacher’s pace  
Constant guidance by teacher  
Non scientific  
Much role-play and fantasy  
Random placement - not necessary to return  
  
Teacher decides what the child has to learn needs  
Teacher-centered environment  
Use of reward and punishment in motivation materials  
All children are treated alike  
Play materials for non-specific skills  
Rigid rules not to move furniture and to sit in  
  
Silence is on many occasions enforced  
  
Focus on imparting maximum quantum of

### **Montessori**

Flexible curriculum  
Allows the child to learn at his own pace  
Child free to discover on his own  
Scientific method of teaching  
Reality orientated  
Specific places for materials - sense of order to specific place  
Child chooses activities according to inner  
  
Child-centered learning environment  
Self-education through self-correcting  
  
Recognition of sensitive periods in each child  
Multi-sensory materials to develop specific skills  
  
Liberty to move about self and furniture designated places  
  
Liberty to speak (without disturbing others) as he pleases  
  
Focus on developing the child’s wholesome knowledge personality

## **COURSE SUPPLEMENTS**

(Additional Materials that can be purchased separately from CERDS)

### **PRACTICAL LIFE ALBUM**

**Rs.800/-**

Exercises of Practical life are the introduction, of the child to the Montessori environment. These activities fix the wandering mind of the child and lead him to concentration, independence, order, and coordination of movements, self-esteem and social graces. The manuals have a list of over 200 activities and are easy to understand, comprehensive guide to both teachers and parents.

## **SENSORIAL ALBUM**

**Rs. 800/-**

At this age the child perceives the environment around him, predominantly through his senses, sharpening them in the process. The Montessori tools dealing with the training of senses are specially designed, to train the child to distinguish even very small difference in sound or colour or shape etc. This album comprehensively covers all the sensorial tools in detail, with basic exercises and extension activities with the material.

## **LANGUAGE ALBUM**

**Rs. 800/-**

This album describes how to teach the child, phonetic sounds, phonetic reading and writing ,irregular or sight words, phonograms and blends, which lead to fluent reading through use of a multitude of activities. The manual includes, journal keeping, creative writing, poetry and story writing.

## **MATHEMATICS**

**Rs. 800/-**

Children first learn to count to ten, and systematically progress to solving complex addition, subtraction, and multiplication and division questions. The tools are described in detail and mathematics becomes fun with the manual's help.

## **CULTURE ALBUM**

**Rs. 800/-**

This album focuses on five subjects:

**Geography-** Students develop an appreciation for our planet by first learning about land, water and air. They progress to studying the world's different regions through photographs, art, geo-moulds and geography puzzles.

**Botany** - We assist the child in exploring the biological aspects of his environment. We help him develop an appreciation for the delicate balance of nature. The study of botany is child centered using live plants as a knowledge and interest catalyst.

**Zoology-** Children by their very nature are fascinated with animals. We learn to appreciate animals and to respect their needs, habits and special characteristics.

**Art & Culture** – Children learn about various art forms and do lots of art activities, learn about painters, sculptors and learn to appreciate famous works of art.

**History** – Children have a spontaneous interest in History and love to learn about what happened long time ago. This manual helps the child realize his place in this world in relation to his environment

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **How do I benefit from this program?**

**Flexibility** : Our Montessori distance education programs are designed for people with busy lives. You are not committed to preset class times, or required to perform unnecessary “busy work.” Almost all of our students continue to work full-time while they acquire their Montessori teaching diploma. Our students can successfully complete their diploma program with one hour study time per day, five days per week.

**Affordability:** If you have researched other, Montessori Training Centers, you have already discovered that our quality and prices are unparalleled in the Montessori training industry.

**Quality:** Our Montessori teacher training program is very user-friendly and visually attractive. The courseware contains both the theory and the practical aspects. Montessori tools are introduced in illustrations and its presentations explained in detail. Manuals are also discussed in detail.

**Success:** Centre for Educational Research & Developmental Studies has been in operation since 1999, providing professional distance education programs to educators around the globe. We take pride in knowing that our graduates are extremely successful in acquiring employment in Montessori environments.

**Demand:** Parents today insist that their children's, childcare environments provide positive, stimulative education as part of a balanced program. That is why Montessori-trained educators are in high demand worldwide. Our programs are recognized by Montessori schools everywhere, which are seeking well-trained, professional Montessori educators. We have graduates from over fifty countries worldwide.

### **When may I start the course?**

The online course and the distance education program are individualized program; hence you may start at any time. We do encourage you to contact us today so that you may embark on this exciting journey without further delay! We also have a regular course, which begins twice a year. The first batch starts in January/February, and the second batch starts in the month of July/August. Regular courses are available only in corporate headquarters in Kottayam, India at the moment. However we do have plans of setting up franchise network for Montessori teacher training, soon.

### **How long does it take to complete the program?**

The average duration to complete the correspondence or online program is six months. However there have been students in the past who completed the course in three or four months. CERDS has fixed that the students are required to study a minimum of three months from the date of enrollment to complete the course. The maximum duration permitted to do the course is one year.

### **How much study time do I need to devote to this program?**

If you can devote one hour a day, five days a week to our program, you can complete it comfortably within our outlined schedule. Do I need to complete the course within an allotted time frame? Yes. You have up to 12 months to complete the course, although the standard length of time is 6 months. You may extend the course for another six months by remitting the extension fee, before the expiry date.

### **Do I need to train at a Montessori school to complete my certification?**

No. This is not a compulsory requirement, however, we do highly recommend that you seek an internship, assistant, or volunteer position in a Montessori classroom setting while participating in the CERDS's, Montessori teacher training program. This allows you to experience and put into immediate practice your written training. The vast majority of our students are already working in a Montessori environment. As such, their current responsibilities far exceed that of a student teacher. We do not feel it is necessary to require an internship from people currently employed in a Montessori environment. However, persons not familiar to the Montessori environment are recommended to undergo training with a Montessori House of Children, for at least one month. This can be done at a Montessori house near your neighborhood. A list of schools that follow the Montessori methods are available on our home page. You can be provided an introduction letter from CERDS to be given to the Directress of the Montessori

House, where you wish to undergo training. At the end of your training, you should submit an internship report to CERDS.

**Since I would like to secure employment by a certain date, will you allow me to complete the course in 2 months?**

No. This course may be comfortably completed within 6 to 9 months, if proceeding at a consistent pace. Rushing you through the course would be jeopardizing the quality of the program. You are required to spend a minimum of three months to study the course. For your benefit, and the benefit of children, we will not compromise our standards of excellence.

**Will I have to take a written test at the end of the course?**

Yes. There are two tests, which the students are expected to answer in their own words. The first test paper should be taken after the third module, and the second test paper should be taken after the eighth module. There is also facility to do the test online. The test papers are graded and will add up to 50% of your final marks. The remaining 50% of your marks will come from the answers of the assignments; you are required to submit, at the end of each module. Each assignment is comprehensively evaluated for effort in research and thorough understanding of the Montessori philosophy, method, and application. Unsatisfactory work will be addressed and resubmitted.

**What if I can't complete my assignments by the required date?**

All centers of higher learning have schedules that must be adhered to. Your personal tutor will consider extensions on an individual basis for students under extreme distress.

**How many instructors will be evaluating my assignments?**

You will be assigned one primary evaluator and one co-evaluator. Your personal tutor will be the primary evaluator. This provides consistency, a balanced perspective, and allows you to establish a personal rapport. Your personal tutor will be committed to your success by offering guidance and encouragement.

**How do I know if your graduates are satisfied with this Training Centre?**

Our mandate is to provide professional, cost-effective Montessori training. If student satisfaction is a credible gauge of how well we are doing, we are delighted! Please see the student testimonials pages to know what our past students say about our programs.

**Do we feel classroom experience is important?**

We definitely feel that in order for a prospective teacher to be taken seriously, classroom experience is a necessary component to compliment our program. For students lacking Montessori classroom experience, we generally suggest that after they have completed approximately two thirds of our program, it is time to approach a local school(s) and offer your services as a volunteer teacher. This will provide them with valuable and credible practical experience as well as important contacts.

**How many graduates successfully acquire employment?**

Like graduates from all Montessori training centers, our graduates are very successful in securing employment. More than 50% of our students are already working in schools and are sponsored by the schools they work with.

### **Am I able to teach with just this diploma?**

It depends on where you live. The answer is yes in some areas, and no in others. It could also depend on whether you want to start off working as the teacher responsible for the classroom, or as a classroom assistant. Private schools are almost always much more flexible with their teacher's educational requirements.

### **Is your diploma recognized internationally?**

Yes. Like all Montessori Diplomas, ours is valid internationally. In fact, our students come from over fifty countries worldwide. Like a growing number of Montessori Training Centers, we are independent. Being independent provides us with the freedom to offer the highest quality program possible, without interference. To affiliate ourselves with any of the older, more orthodox organizations would require us to make program compromises, which we will not consider.

### **Who are we registered, affiliated or accredited with?**

CERDS is an autonomous institution. How does your course differ from the courses offered by AMI, AMS, and MACTE?

AMI and AMS do not offer distance education. The Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) has extensively debated the distance education issue. At present, MACTE is still declining to accredit distance education programs. There is no denying that AMI and AMS offer quality training. However, the time commitment and cost often places them beyond what many people are prepared to handle. Our program is a very professional, manageable and cost-effective alternative.

**AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY (AMS) :** AMS schools routinely employ teachers with non-AMS diplomas. Graduates from our training program may apply for general AMS membership by sending a copy of their diploma with the application for membership. AMS training programs require that students spend a minimum of 600 hours in the classroom with the AMS instructor.

**ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONALE (AMI) :** If you want an AMI diploma, you can only receive it by full-time attendance at an AMI training centre. There are thousands of Montessori schools around the world. There are only a hand full schools that are AMI-accredited. The few schools that are AMI-accredited may not employ you. The vast majority of schools, hire candidates who have been trained outside the AMI realm and may, out of principle, not wish to consider AMI-trained candidates for employment. Employers are looking for Montessori teachers with sound knowledge of the Montessori methods and familiar with the Montessori tools and their uses. As far as the employers are concerned the source of the Montessori certification is immaterial.

We know that our program offers you a very positive alternative for acquiring your Montessori training and diploma, if you cannot afford either the cost of their tuition, or the necessary time required to attend and complete one of their programs.

The director of a Montessori school informed me that they would hire only graduates from their own training background. Is this the norm?

It does happen, but it is not the norm. Any Montessori school or organization claiming exclusivity is, unfortunately, out of harmony with the Montessori community at large. Our code of ethics encourages our graduates to respect and support any organization that advocates the true principles of Montessori education.

### **Will the lack of association with the above bodies affect my employment opportunities?**

It has not affected our graduates' opportunities. "The current, Montessori teacher shortage is a national dilemma" (Times of India, May 2002). There is such a demand for Montessori teachers from so many schools embracing the attitude that they simply want to hire the most enthusiastic and committed teacher, regardless of his/her training source, the employment prospects are very positive. To be successful today, many school administrators are acknowledging that the source of a teacher's training is insignificant compared to the personal qualities a potential candidate brings to the position. Consequently, now more than ever, administrators hire candidates who present themselves as the most committed, knowledgeable and enthusiastic person for the position.

Most administrators are also aware that although parents expect the school's teachers to have Montessori training, most are not interested in its source. In fact, most parents have never heard of or are interested in AMI, AMS, MACTE, etc. Quite simply, parents today are careful. A teacher's diploma is far down their list of concerns. In short, they are only truly interested in the observable overall quality of the individual school or classroom. And it is universally agreed that this varies considerably from one Montessori environment to the next, regardless of a teacher's training. Parents are however vitally concerned with five specific issues:

- 1) Is this a teacher, who I am comfortable entrusting my child to?
- 2) Are the children in this environment happy?
- 3) Are the children being intellectually challenged?
- 4) Will my child experience secure emotional growth, and develop his or her sense of self-esteem in this environment?
- 5) In my opinion, is this the most impressive Montessori environment I have visited?

As far as securing a teaching position, a diploma from one of the more orthodox centers might help you at some schools, and depending on the school's philosophy, hinder you at others.

### **What is an average salary I can expect to earn?**

This is a question that is simply not possible for us to answer. Salaries differ across the globe, and even vary considerably within communities. The best solution is to ask someone you know. If this is not possible, consider telephoning a few local schools. Explain to the person you are speaking with that you are considering training to become a Montessori teacher and you are wondering what an average salary might be. Emphasize that you are not inquiring about their school's salary schedule, but, rather, a community average.

### **How can I contact you?**

You can contact the center through emails. The email ID is: [info@cerds.com](mailto:info@cerds.com)

## **STUDENT TESTIMONIALS ABOUT OUR MONTESSORI PROGRAMS**

I have enrolled myself for the Montessori Diploma Course. I am thoroughly enjoying the study and would like to attend the practical workshop in Bangalore or Mumbai. Kindly let me know the schedule.

**Rekha Mani, India**

The study material is well prepared and the faculty involved in delivering the course are excellent. Thanks to CERDS for enabling me to start own Montessori school.

**Suja Denny, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

The course materials were very good, prompt and encouraging. Your website provided all the information required for a Montessori directress. Really it's a boon to all Montessori aspirants.

**L. Asha, Chengannur, India**

The course has given me a deep insight into the psychology of small children. I am indeed very happy to let you know that now I am teaching in primary classes in the Army school here. The course material as it is very interesting and I honestly don't feel that you need to make any changes to make the course easier. Whenever I rang up for any academic help, I always got very positive response from you. Assignments were checked thoroughly and returned with necessary remarks which helped me to boost up my confidence.

**Anupama Rajesh, Jammu Kashmir, India**

The course conducted by CERDS has exceeded my expectations. The course curriculum is comprehensive and productive. I will encourage my co-teachers to enrol for your program.

**Gayathri Devi, Andhra Pradesh, India**

The course is quiet comprehensive and useful. Thank you very much for enlightening my views about children and childhood.

**Saleena Nawas, Thodupuzha, India**

I feel the course offered by CERDS gives a deep insight into Madame Montessori's life and her methodology and helps the students to be a good teacher in future. Your website is found to be very impressive and tutorial support is highly informative.

**Tanu Sharma, Goa, India**

I have really enjoyed being a part of this program. The courseware is excellent and provided all information to open up own Montessori school. Thanks.

**Nazneen Hassen, Muscat, Oman**

A big thanks to CERDS for the excellent training program. I got the opportunity to work as a kinder garden teacher after joining your course. The CERDS team was truly supportive during the program and the courseware and assignments were of par excellence. I really enjoyed doing this wonderful course.

**Renuka Mani, Coimbatore, India**

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Cerds team for all support given to me during my year of studies. I have gained much from the course and wish to practice the knowledge I gained.

**Mary A. Juriansz, Fujairah, UAE**

# CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES

Montessori Teacher Training College



## APPLICATION FORM

Application Number:

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### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Roll No	:	_____
Registration fee	:	_____
Life Sketch	:	_____
Certificate	:	_____
Photograph	:	_____
Date of receipt	:	_____

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Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: ( *This is the address to which all materials will be sent* ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # : \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile # : \_\_\_\_\_

Email ID : \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications : \_\_\_\_\_

Present Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Work experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the program you are applying for in CERDS

- Montessori Training Distance Education Program ( Online / Postal )
- Montessori Training Classroom Program
- Montessori Manuals
- Montessori Practical Training Workshop

Choice of centre for the Practical Training:

Mumbai

New Delhi

Kolkatta

Chennai

Kottayam

Banglore

How did you hear about this course?

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Reason for applying to this course

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Please admit me as a student of your Montessori Teacher Training Program. I undertake to abide by the rules and conditions as set forth in the prospectus and herewith remit Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ by Cash/M.O./ DD \* \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ Bank \_\_\_\_\_ in favor of "CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES , (CERDS)" payable at Kottayam.

## DECLARATION

I hereby solemnly and sincerely affirm that:

1. The particulars given above by me are true.
2. The lessons sent to me in this correspondence course shall be for my personal use only and that I shall not duplicate or copy them in any form nor use for any commercial purpose.
3. I shall abide by the evaluation and decisions of my assessors and examiners.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_