



# Montessori Teacher Academy

2024/2025  
ACADEMIC  
PROGRAM  
BROCHURE

Montessori  
Early Childhood  
Teacher Education Program  
Ages 2 ½ through 6

32920 Pacific Coast Hwy.  
Dana Point, CA 92629  
Phone: 949-242-0250  
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[www.montessorita.com](http://www.montessorita.com)



# A Note from the Director...

Dear Prospective Adult Learner,

We appreciate your interest in the Montessori Teacher Academy Teacher Education Program. We have provided the best Teacher Preparation and Training in the Orange County area for over thirty years.

Through this one-year program, you will embark on a transformational journey to become a nurtured Montessori Teacher. Our standards of excellence will ensure that you grow in your Montessori knowledge through inspirational lectures, insightful discussions, personal reflections, curriculum practices, and the development of classroom leadership and communication skills.

As you will read in the following information, this program is more than teacher preparation; it is an educational training method that promotes the optimum development of human potential. We have structured our courses to provide a hybrid program comprised of in-person and online components.

I invite you to read through the enclosed information and visit our website at [www.montessorita.com](http://www.montessorita.com). If you have any questions or would like to schedule an orientation meeting, you can reach me by phone at 949-242-0250 or via e-mail at [paloma@montessorita.com](mailto:paloma@montessorita.com).

Looking forward to your participation in the program.

Kind regards,

Paloma Johnston  
Founder and Director



**“A CHILD WHO CONCENTRATES IS IMMENSELY HAPPY.”**

— MARIA MONTESSORI  
THE ABSORBENT MIND

# Montessori Teacher Academy

Founded in 1992 in Lake Forest, California, the Montessori Teacher Academy served the local community as the one and only Teacher Education Program in Orange County affiliated with the National Center for Montessori Education (NCME). In September 2003, the Teacher Education Program took residence in Dana Point, California, using Monarch Bay Montessori Academy as its demonstration school. Monarch Bay Montessori Academy houses over one hundred families in the southern California area and serves children at the Early Childhood and Elementary levels (2½ through 12 years). In June 2006, the Montessori Teacher Academy joined the American Montessori Society, AMS, as it united forces with NCME to become the largest Montessori organization globally.

The Montessori Teacher Academy provides a Teacher Education Program of the highest academic standards. Based on the Montessori principles, this training leads to a full understanding and embracing of the Montessori philosophy, curriculum, and methodology. It guides the adult learner through the planning, development, and organization of the ideal classroom; a carefully prepared environment that speaks to the child's natural development of order, concentration, coordination, and independence. The adult learner understands the rationale and sequence of the Montessori materials and becomes well-versed in the knowledge and confidence in presenting these purposeful activities to children. Above all, the Montessori Teacher Academy shares its feelings of love, respect, and admiration for children and its commitment to creating nurturing environments that speak to the child's education.

Montessori Teacher Academy is located at 32920 Pacific Coast Highway in Dana Point, California, in Monarch Bay Plaza, at the corner of Crown Valley and Pacific Coast Highway.

## Objectives

To provide complete and fully accredited courses in Montessori Teacher Education for children ages 2½ through 6.

This course prepares adults to acquire the insights and skills needed to work with children, meet their individual needs, and plan for their continuity of learning experiences through the Montessori philosophy, theory, methodology, and practical implementation. The adult learner will learn to demonstrate theoretical knowledge and application of research findings in child development and early childhood education. In addition, the adult learner will become part of a school team and learn how to work well with co-workers and with the school's administration, as well as implement child development and early education concepts to other staff, parents, and community.



# Credentials



MONTESSORI TEACHER ACADEMY PREPARES MONTESSORI TEACHERS TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN FROM 2½ TO 6 YEARS OLD.



The Montessori Teacher Academy provides a Montessori Early Childhood Credential accredited by MACTE and affiliated with the American Montessori Society. This credential qualifies Montessori teachers for the education of children from ages 2½ through 6. MTA excels in educating teachers with the highest academic standards. Our teachers learn to embrace the Montessori philosophy, curriculum, and methodology. This program develops quality Montessori teachers who are inspired to become life-long learners.

Adult learners enroll in one of the three types of credentials depending on their current level of education:

- **AMS Early Childhood Credential**
  - Bachelor's Degree from an accredited 4-year College or University, verified by official transcripts.
- **AMS Early Childhood Associate Credential**
  - High school graduation verified by official transcript.
- **AMS International Early Childhood Credential**
  - Bachelor's Degree from an international institution verified by official transcripts.



# Course Overview



## Academic Component

### Summer Intensive

- Four weeks in June
- In-person
- Monday through Friday
- From 12 to 7 PM
- One week per subject area
  - Practical Life
  - Sensorial
  - Math
  - Language

### Academic Year

- September through June
- Virtual classes on Zoom
- Tuesdays from 6 to 9 PM
  - Montessori History and Philosophy
  - Child Development
  - Child, Family, and Community
  - Classroom Leadership
  - Early Childhood Observation
- Occasional Saturdays in-person
  - Cultural Subjects
  - Physical Science and Social Studies
  - Art, Music, Movement
  - ABAR

## Practicum Component

### Practicum Component:

- Practicum in a Montessori school
- Work a minimum of 540 hours
- Supervised or self-directed practicum under the supervision of a master teacher or mentor
- Attend scheduled theory meetings and workshops
- Observe Montessori and early childhood classrooms
- Complete a final Yearlong Project
- Prepare and personalize curriculum albums
- Write monthly self-assessment reports
- Be evaluated by the supervising teacher
- Be observed/evaluated by a field supervisor

## Application Process

- Complete application
- Provide three letters of recommendation
  - Two professional
  - One personal
- Write a 350-word essay
- Provide official academic transcript
- Include copies of other credentials (if applicable)
- Submit \$250 registration fee (non-refundable)

# 2024/2025 Schedule



- ORIENTATION MEETING May 22, 2024
- SUMMER COMPONENT June 3 – 28, 2024  
Monday through Friday - 12:00 to 7:00 PM
- FALL COMPONENT September – December 2024  
Tuesdays from 6:00 to 9:00 PM  
Selected Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- WINTER COMPONENT January – May 2025  
Tuesdays from 6:00 to 9:00 PM  
Selected Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- PRACTICUM COMPONENT (9 months)  
Daily: Working in a Montessori classroom for a minimum of 4 hours

## Tuition and Fees

Registration Fee	\$ 250.00	Full payment - Due with application - This fee is non-refundable
Affiliation Fees	\$ 470.00	Due June 1, 2024
BPPE STRF	\$ 0.00	(0.00 per each \$1,000 of tuition) - Non-refundable - Due upon registration
Summer Tuition Fee	\$ 4,000.00	Full payment due on June 1, 2024
Fall Tuition Fee	\$ 1,400.00	Full payment due on September 1, 2024
Winter Tuition Fee	\$ 1,400.00	Full payment due on January 1, 2025
Certification Fee	\$ 300.00	Due June 1, 2025
TOTAL:	\$ 7,820.00	

## Additional Expenses

The adult learner is responsible for additional expenses of approximately \$300.00 for books, materials, and supplies.

## Scholarship and Payments

Partial Scholarships are available through the American Montessori Society. Check the AMS website at [www.amshq.org](http://www.amshq.org) for guidelines and application information. The deadline for submissions of scholarship applications to AMS is April 19, 2024.

Deferred payment plans are available on a case by case basis through the Montessori Teacher Academy.



**AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY**

education that transforms lives

**Affiliated Teacher Education Program**

## WHY ENROLL IN AN AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM?

Adults seeking to become Montessori teachers choose to begin their professional journey through AMS Montessori Teacher Education Programs because...

- AMS is the largest Montessori organization in the world;
- AMS is committed to promoting quality education for all children from birth to 18 years of age;
- AMS offers an authentic, true-to-the-source Montessori teacher education;
- AMS teacher education is based on fundamental Montessori ideas which are backed by years of successful practice;
- AMS has the highest standards of Montessori teacher education as measured by instructional and practicum hours;
- An AMS Montessori teacher is educated in areas including:
  - Human growth and development
  - Montessori theory and philosophy
  - Accurate and appropriate use of Montessori materials
  - An open-ended array of learning materials and activities
  - Observational skills to successfully guide and challenge students
  - Teaching strategies that support and facilitate the unique growth of each individual
  - Leadership skills that foster a nurturing environment that is physically and psychologically supportive of learning
- An AMS teacher credential is recognized as a document which reflects nearly 50 years of research and continuous raising of professional teaching standards;
- An AMS teacher credential assures the public that the teacher is a professional educator, dedicated to working collaboratively with parents, colleagues and all members of the school community;
- Every AMS-affiliated Teacher Education Program is accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, MACTE, Commission, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; and ... an AMS Montessori teacher is engaged in a rewarding and fulfilling profession.