



# Montessori Teacher Academy

Montessori Early Childhood  
Teacher Education Program  
Ages 2 ½ through 6

2026/2027

Academic Program Brochure

[info@montessorita.com](mailto:info@montessorita.com)  
949-242-0250  
[www.montessorita.com](http://www.montessorita.com)

# About Us



“The child who concentrates  
is immensely happy.”  
— Maria Montessori  
The Absorbent Mind

## Who We Are

A passionate and innovative mother-daughter team. Paloma has a background in Psychology and has worked in Montessori for over 38 years. She is credentialed at the Early Childhood and Elementary levels and is a founder of Monarch Bay Montessori Academy. Paloma has served on various AMS Committees. Emma began her Montessori journey at just 8 weeks old! She has her Early Childhood Credential and a Masters in Leadership Development. She is the Board President for the California Montessori Alliance advocating for Montessori education across the state. Together they created Montessorita as a way to expand upon the Montessori Teacher Academy and provide much needed Montessori services.

---

## What We Do

Montessorita specializes in all things Montessori and is committed to improving and advancing Montessori education for all. We educate adults in the Montessori Method and help them reach their fullest potential so they can best serve the needs of the children in their care.

We see a future where all children have access to high fidelity Montessori classrooms guided by qualified and committed Montessori Teachers and supported by Montessori inspired homes.

# A Letter from the Directors



Dear Prospective Adult Learner,

We appreciate your interest in the Montessori Teacher Academy Teacher Education Program. We have been proud to provide the best teacher preparation program in Orange County for over thirty two years and counting.

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

As you will see, this program is more than teacher preparation; it is a transformational educational experience that promotes the development of your human potential. The program is structured with hybrid courses that provide a combination of in-person and online components.

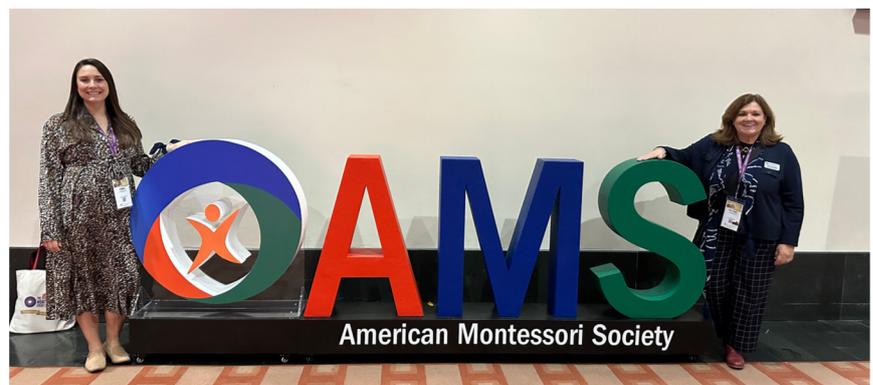
We invite you to read through the enclosed information and visit our website at [www.montessorita.com](http://www.montessorita.com). If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting with us, you can [schedule an appointment](#), reach us by phone at 949-242-0250, or via email us at [info@montessorita.com](mailto:info@montessorita.com).

We look forward to your participation in the program.

Kind regards,

Paloma Johnston  
Founder and Co-Director

Emma Johnston León  
Co-Director & Instructor



# Montessori Teacher Academy



## History

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.

---

## Objectives

The Montessori Teacher Academy offers a Teacher Education Program of the highest academic standards, grounded in Montessori principles. This comprehensive training leads to a deep understanding and full embrace of the Montessori philosophy, curriculum, and methodology. Adult learners are guided in planning, developing, and organizing an ideal classroom environment that nurtures a child's natural development of order, concentration, coordination, and independence. They gain the knowledge and confidence to present Montessori materials and activities effectively, with a shared commitment to love, respect, and admiration for children.

This course prepares adults to meet children's individual needs and ensure the continuity of their learning experiences through the Montessori philosophy, theory, methodology, and practical implementation. Adult learners will demonstrate theoretical knowledge and apply research findings in child development and early childhood education. Additionally, they will become integral members of a school team, working well with co-workers and administration, and effectively communicating child development and early education concepts to other staff, parents, and the community.

# Credentials



Montessori Teacher Academy prepares Montessori Teachers to meet the educational needs of children from 2 ½ to 6 years old.

The Montessori Teacher Academy offers a Montessori Early Childhood Credential accredited by MACTE and affiliated by the American Montessori Society. This credential qualifies Montessori teachers to educate children from ages 2 ½ to 6. MTA excels in maintaining the highest academic standards, ensuring that our teachers fully embrace the Montessori philosophy, curriculum, and methodology. This program cultivates quality Montessori teachers who are inspired to become lifelong learners.



After completion of the program, learners receive one of the three types of credentials depending on their current level of education:

01.

## AMS Early Childhood Credential

Bachelor's Degree from an accredited 4-year College or University, verified by official transcripts.

02.

## AMS Early Childhood Associate Credential

High school graduation verified by official transcript.

03.

## AMS International Early Childhood Credential

Bachelor's Degree from an international institution verified by official transcripts.



# Program Overview



## Academic Component

WINTER/SPRING & FALL

Zoom on Tuesdays

6pm to 9pm

- Montessori History and Philosophy
- Child Development
- Child, Family, and Community
- Classroom Leadership

## Cultural Workshops

WINTER - FALL

In-Person select

Saturdays 9am -1pm

- Peace Education
- Physical Sciences and Life Sciences
- Social Studies
- Art, Music, Movement
- ABAR

## Summer Intensive

JUNE - 4 WEEKS

In-person

Monday - Friday

12-7pm

- Week 1: Practical Life
- Week 2: Sensorial
- Week 3: Language
- Week 4: Math
- Exams throughout following year

## Child Development & Observation Courses

WINTER -SPRING

Online courses

Asynchronous

- Child Development Course
- Child, Family, and Community
- Early Childhood Observation Course
- Observe Montessori and traditional classrooms

## Practicum

SELF-DETERMINED

9 months

4 hours per day

- Work a minimum of 540 hours in a Montessori classroom
- Supervised or self-directed practicum under the supervision of a master teacher or mentor
- Write monthly self-assessment reports
- Be evaluated by the supervising teacher
- Be observed/evaluated by a field supervisor
- Complete a final Yearlong Project

# Details



## Investment

Registration Fee	\$ 250.00 Non-refundable, due with application
Affiliation Fees	\$ 500.00 Non-refundable, due January 1
BPPE STRF	\$ 0.00 (0.00 per each \$1,000 of tuition) - Non-refundable
Winter Tuition	\$ 2,000.00 Payment due on January 1
Summer Tuition	\$ 4,000.00 Payment due on June 1
Fall Tuition	\$ 2,000.00 Payment due on September 1
TOTAL:	\$ 8,750.00

## Additional Expenses

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

## Scholarships

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 in April 2026.

## Payment Options

Payment plans are available on a case-by-case basis through the Montessori Teacher Academy. Please inquire for more details.

## Application Process

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

# Why Enroll?



## IS AN AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM RIGHT FOR YOU?

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.



**AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY**

education that transforms lives

**Affiliated Teacher Education Program**

# Testimonials



" MTA is thorough and misses no detail when it comes to excellence in Montessori education and training. They are passionate about their roles as educators, and it shows in their tireless efforts to make each adult learner the best they can be. MTA provides ample time to gain experience with the materials and is thoughtful in their presentations of the Montessori Method and curriculum.

Dawn-Marie P.

---

" Montessorita excels in creating safe, inclusive, and respectful environments for learning, along with various resources and supports.



Keiko K.

---



" MTA will make you feel like family...because you ARE family. My first day in class, I was so nervous and I was immediately greeted with smiles and warm welcomes. They will continually tell you that you are welcome back anytime to review or even just to say hi. The course is very thorough and they will ensure that you are prepared to teach in a Montessori classroom successfully.

Kayden M.



# Let's Chat!

Emma Johnston León  
949-242-0250  
[emma@montessorita.com](mailto:emma@montessorita.com)

Whether you're in the exploration phase or have specific questions, book a Complimentary Information Call

