



AMI MONTESSORI ASSISTANTS CERTIFICATE ASSISTANTS TO INFANCY 0-3

AMIAC0-3

Course Brochure

Focus of the Assistant's work

The intention of the Assistants Course is to help interested adults become able assistants in a Montessori Nido or Infant Community.

The task of the Assistant is NOT to give initial presentations of materials, but rather to support and help the Directress to maintain the equilibrium within the class, to do followup work with the children, to do language work with the children, helping to maintain order within the environment.

- To observe
- To learn when and how to intervene (not interfere)
- To acquire the ability to allow the children to become more and more independent; "any unnecessary help is a hindrance to development"
- To gain knowledge of Montessori's understanding of Freedom and Discipline
- To learn how to gain the children's trust
- To understand the power of the absorbent mind
- To understand the importance of consistency (also related to use of language) and routines
- To understand the importance of the environment: Indoor and outdoor
- The importance of food and food preparation

Duration of the course programme

Sixty hours at the Centre and nine additional hours of observation – either immediately after the course or parallel to the course. Specific topics to focus on will be given for observation.

Course structure options

- Two full days per week
- Six weekends at ten hours per weekend
- Five hours per week for twelve weeks
- A full week plus evenings
- Weekends and evenings, etc.

Note: Whatever the format, the course should not be extended beyond twelve weeks.

Recommended reading

It is recommended that selected reading from the four books listed below be undertaken during the course to prepare the Assistants for further reading after the course.

- Understanding the Human Being
- The Child in the Family
- Education for a New World
- The Absorbent Mind

Units	UNIT CODE	UNIT TITLE
	I.	Introduction to Montessori
	II.	The Role of the Directress
	III.	The Role of the Assistant
	IV.	Overview of the Planes of Development
	V.	The Child's Mind from 0-6 years also touching upon Sensitive Periods, but emphasizing the power of the Absorbent Mind, particularly the Unconscious Absorbent Mind
	VI.	Order: The importance of Order and Precision, with emphasis on the part Order plays in the development of the personality
	VII.	Movement 0-3: Development of Movement and its significance for the child
	VIII.	Language: Development of, also taking into account the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the adult • Use of language in general • Vocabulary—correct, precise, rich, scientifically exact • How to listen to children • How to elicit language • How to give a 3-period lesson
	IX.	Independence: Development of, also taking into account different levels of independence – physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual, as conditions for interdependence
	X.	Prepared Environment: Home and Nido, Infant Community (the physical and the intangible)
	XI.	Freedom and Discipline: Understanding the concept of Freedom from the Montessori point of view and the growth of Discipline as an inner development the foundation of which is laid from birth to three
	XII.	Observation and its relevance (technique and recording of)
	XIII.	Music and Art
	XIV.	Maintaining the environment (indoor and outdoor)
	XV.	Toilet learning in Nido and IC

Part of each session should be dedicated to the reading and discussion of Maria Montessori's texts relevant to topics given.

Three hours shall be dedicated to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having the Assistants practise basic movements such as: walking within the environment, carrying trays, chairs, materials, etc.; • Opening and closing doors, drawers, etc., as a model for the children in a Montessori Prepared Environment; • Essential grace and courtesy (e.g. greeting children and parents), giving appropriate assistance in the cloakroom, etc. • Practice how to help to dress and undress children under 3 and the importance of clothing for the development of children
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Ten hours shall be dedicated to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the techniques for making, mending and maintaining materials • Learning techniques for vocabulary building
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Further requirements from the student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of three papers (500 words each) on topics set by the course, to be submitted by a date stipulated by the course director. • In order to obtain the Birth to Three Assistants Course Certificate a minimum of 90% attendance is required.
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The Australian Centre for Montessori Studies (ACMS) is a national organisation committed to providing quality training to the Montessori teaching community, and to those interested in becoming qualified in the Montessori method.

Montessori education is growing in Australia, particularly in the early childhood sector. Parent demand for quality and choice is becoming more discerning, resulting in an increased number and capacity of Montessori schools and centres. As a result, there is a high demand for trained Montessori educators.

There are basically two components to teaching qualifications within Montessori, one being what is mandated by the government and the other being the Montessori pedagogical training required by a Montessori school/centre.

One of the aims of the National Quality Framework is to improve and nationalise early childhood qualifications and educator to child ratios. As a result, educators working with children from birth to preschool age will require at least an approved Certificate III level education and care qualification, with higher qualifications required for half the staff.

In a Montessori setting, this means that all Montessori assistants will require a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. Teachers will require at least a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care, with some requiring teaching degrees, depending on the setting.

In addition to these qualifications, Montessori training is provided at the assistant and teacher level. ACMS is the only training centre in Australia authorised to deliver Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) training courses. AMI is the recognised international authority on Montessori education and directs studies in affiliated teacher-training institutions around the world.

ACMS provides the AMI Montessori Certificate course for Montessori assistants and the AMI Montessori Diploma course for Montessori teachers. There are three separate courses for the Montessori Diploma aligned to the age group of the child – the Assistants to Infancy 0-3 course, the Early Childhood 3-6 course and the Primary 6-12 course.

Prospective educators are encouraged to visit the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and the relevant state teachers institution websites for further information about qualifications and teacher registration.

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