



3-6 Assistants Certificate Course

The Course Programme

- 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
- VI. Order: The importance of Order and Precision, with emphasis on the part Order plays in the development of the personality
- VII. Movement 0-6: Development of Movement and its significance for the child
- VIII. Language:
 - a. Development of, also taking into account the following elements:
 - i. Preparation of the adult
 - ii. Use of language in general
 - iii. Vocabulary—correct, precise, rich, scientifically exact
 - iv. How to listen to children
 - v. How to elicit language
- IX. Independence:
 - a. Development of, also taking into account different levels of independence— physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual, as conditions for interdependence
- X. Prepared Environment:
 - a. Home & Casa dei Bambini (the physical and the intangible)
- XI. Freedom and Discipline:
 - a. Understanding the concept of Freedom from the Montessori point of view and the growth of Discipline as an inner development
- XII. Social Development
- XIII. Observation and its relevance (technique & recording of)
- XIV. Music & Art
- XV. Maintaining the environment (indoor & outdoor)



Obligatory Reading

Selected reading from the four books listed below will be undertaken during the course to prepare the Assistants for further reading after the course.

- The Secret of Childhood
- The Child in the Family
- Education for a New World
- The Absorbent Mind

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

Specifics

Three hours shall be dedicated to:

- 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—greeting children, giving appropriate assistance in the cloakroom, etc.

Ten hours shall be dedicated to:

- Introducing the techniques for making, mending and maintaining materials

Further requirements for the student:

- Submission of three papers (500 words each) on topics set by the Trainer/Auxiliary Trainer, to be submitted by a date stipulated by the training centre/organising body.
- In order to obtain the Children's House Assistants Course Certificate, a minimum of 90% attendance is required.