

Next Steps:

- Schedule a tour with us:
(310) 829-3551 or smmiusa@gmail.com
- Fill out an application form
- Join us at an orientation
- Transform your future!

Santa Monica Montessori Institute

1909 Colorado Avenue,
Santa Monica, CA 90404



“The real preparation for education is a study of one’s self. The training of the teacher is something far more than a learning of ideas. It includes the training of character; it is a preparation of the spirit.”

- Dr. Maria Montessori

Santa Monica Montessori Institute Teacher Training



AMS and MACTE Accredited
Montessori Institute

Los Angeles County



A Global Education



Whether you need academic advice, tutoring guidance, administrative assistance, or other Montessori information, you may reach out to us via phone or email.

Success:

Our programs are designed to ensure that students complete their Montessori training successfully. Equipped with the knowledge they need to work in a Montessori environment, SMMI graduates have found employment in schools across the globe. Our programs are recognized by Montessori schools everywhere that seek well-trained, professional Montessori educators. SMMI graduates are working in Montessori environments throughout the USA, Canada, China and in many other parts of the world!

Demand:

Successful completion of a SMMI diploma program sets the foundation for graduates to work in a Montessori environment, enrich their existing program, or to develop their own Montessori environment. The demand for Montessori-trained teachers is **higher than ever before**. Teaching continues to be a growth industry, especially in the field of early childhood education, and **Montessori is at the forefront** of this growth. There are thousands of Montessori schools around the world, with over 6,000 in the US alone, of which over 500 are public programs. Private schools, charter schools, and public school programs are adding Montessori programs at an exponential rate in response to proven outcomes and parent demand. As these programs grow, so does the **need for well-trained Montessori teachers**.

Why Should You Enroll?

The Santa Monica Montessori Institute offers professional Montessori teacher training programs to individuals interested in becoming accredited Montessori educators.

Successful completion of a SMMI diploma program sets the foundation for graduates to work in a Montessori environment, enrich their existing program, or to develop their own Montessori environment.

Established:

The Santa Monica Montessori Institute has successfully trained high quality Montessori educators since 1968. Throughout our years of working closely with adult learners and schools, we have **established strong relationships** with Montessorians around the world. Our students and alumni continue to **share valuable feedback** with us and their essential input, coupled with our experience, allows SMMI to continuously improve our training programs and **provide outstanding Montessori training** to our adult learners.

Quality:

SMMI's commitment to providing a high quality training to our adult learners is evident in what we do. As a Montessori teacher trainee, you will receive comprehensive Montessori albums and a variety of sample materials, equipping you with a solid Montessori foundation. Our experienced Montessori instructors provide adult learners with outstanding support and mentorship both during and after the training program. SMMI's number one priority is our students! Our goal is to provide our adult learners with the guidance and mentoring they need in order to succeed.

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Contact Us

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Historical Background

The Santa Monica Montessori School was established in 1957 by screen actor Tom Laughlin. At the time, the school was known as the Sophia Montessori School. The school was then acquired by Dr. Ruth Dresser in 1960, and its name was subsequently changed to Santa Monica Montessori School.

In 1990, the Santa Monica Montessori School moved to its present location at 1909 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica, California. At its new location, the school increased in size and expanded its program through 8th grade. With assistance from internationally known Montessori educators Claude Claremont, Francesca Claremont and Mario Montessori, Dr. Dresser established the Santa Monica Montessori Institute.

In 2003, Pamela J. Crisman became the Head of School and Director of the Santa Monica Montessori Institute and continues to uphold the philosophy and values of Montessori education.

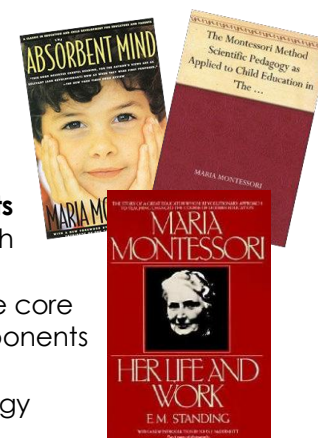
"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence"

- Dr. Maria Montessori

Early Childhood Course Content

Core course components provide the Adult Learner with the knowledge required of the Montessori Early Childhood teacher. The core curriculum includes

- Montessori Philosophy and Theory
- Practical Life Exercises - Development of the whole child
- Sensorial - Development and refinement of the senses
- Mathematics for the Young Child - from concrete to abstract
- Language – Phonetic awareness, early reading and speech
- Physical and Life Science
- Social Studies
- Classroom Leadership



Foundation course components provide the Adult Learner with the rationale for why and how Montessori schools implement the core curriculum. The foundation components include

- Child Development/Psychology
- Observation

Other course components provide the Adult Learner with additional information that deepen the understanding of the child and enrich the classroom experience. The other course components include

- Art, Music, Movement
- Parent Involvement/Education - Child Family and Community
- Early Childhood Practicum – Student Teaching

Montessori Early Childhood Education



Our program introduces the Adult Learner to the materials in the context of the prepared environment of a Montessori classroom for Early Childhood students ages 2 ½ to 6. These materials are designed to be presented and then reinforced with additional lessons.

Montessori lessons require meticulous preparation on the part of the Adult Learner. In addition, there is a significant body of work in which the Adult Learner must demonstrate accomplishment. The Adult Learner is required to prepare curriculum manuals, write papers, prepare formal notes on their texts, demonstrate Montessori lessons and pass formal written and oral exams.

The Adult Learner is required to record observation hours at a Montessori School on both teachers and students in an Early Childhood classroom.

Each Adult Learner will be expected to understand the laws as it relates to child care and child safety. Adult Learners must demonstrate the ability to work with a team of teachers and with their lead teacher in a respectful, cooperative and supportive manner.

The Santa Monica Montessori Institute will only certify Montessori Early Childhood Adult Learners who demonstrate competence in the classroom, interacting with children in all environments, to guiding the education of young children in a Montessori setting.

Program Director and Faculty

Program Director:

Pamela J. Crisman is the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Montessori School and Teacher Training Institute. She holds a B.A. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, a M.A. in Special Education, with an emphasis in Gifted Education, and a Doctorate in Humane Letters. She also has Montessori Certificates in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. She is a Founding and Charter member of both MACTE and IAME and was instrumental in writing the By-Laws, creating the Organizational Structure, Curriculum, Policies and Procedures. She served on the Board of Directors of both organizations and served on the Commission on Accreditation where she wrote the first Commissioners Handbook.

Pam Crisman is an accomplished and goal-driven individual with more than 35 years experience in strategic and tactical educational leadership.

Faculty:

All our faculty members have:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university or its equivalent, in addition to Montessori credential at the level of instruction
- Ten or more years of teaching experience in a classroom with children following the receipt of the credential at the level of instruction
- Documented evidence of expertise and experience in the course subjects
- Current membership in a professional Educational Organization
- Evidence of continuing professional development
- Teaching experience with adults

Maria Montessori



Maria Montessori was Italy's first female medical doctor who, through research and observation, revolutionized education. There is no question that she was a woman ahead of her time. Her goal was to develop the whole personality of

the child, and her system is based on her strong belief in the spontaneous working of the human intellect.

Today her progressive method and many of her innovative ideas, theories, and observations have become an integral part of our educational system. Current concepts such as individualized learning, readiness programs, manipulatives, un-graded classes, combined age groups, team teaching and open classrooms, reflect many of her early insights. Her innovative ideas constitute the framework for many modern day educational practices.

As a Montessori Teacher Education Program, we are committed to preserving Dr. Montessori's legacy and the principles and practices upon which this dynamic educational model was built. Our work is to carry on Dr. Montessori's great mission into the twenty-first century.

Montessori Education continues to grow in the United States and abroad. We are pleased that you are considering training in this exciting field serving children and families.

What We Offer

Montessori Education Courses:

- Early Childhood Education

Who Should Take these Courses:

- Current public and private early childhood and grade school teachers
- High school graduates looking for a rewarding career
- Parents: To understand your child's developmental stages
- Entrepreneurs looking to open a quality in home early childhood program
- Individuals and College Instructors looking to expand their knowledge of Montessori educational philosophy
- Directors of Early Childhood Programs

If You...

- Enjoy working with children
- Have a High School Diploma or equivalent
- Have a desire to be the best teacher you can be
- Want to expand your knowledge and skills

Then These Courses...

- Will prepare you for a successful and rewarding career.

