



## **Early Childhood Ages 2.5 to 6 – Course Description**

### **Independent Study**

Adult learners may begin the independent study component of the course before the academic component. Independent study consists of reading and writing assignments on the principles and philosophy of Montessori Education and Child Development. Required textbooks are included in the course tuition.

### **Academic Component**

The Adult Learner completes assigned reading and written reports on the principles and philosophy of Montessori Education and Child Development. These assignments may begin upon enrollment in the course. Required textbooks are included in the tuition fees.

The five main areas of the Montessori program: Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math, and Cultural Subjects (including Botany, Zoology, Geography, Music, Art) are presented during this phase. Adult Learners are given illustrations and printed notes which make up the personalized Teacher's Resource Manuals. Montessori philosophy, classroom leadership skills, observation techniques, record-keeping, administration, the child in the family and community, child development, and supervised practice are also included.

### **Schedule**

Held 7 weeks during the summer months. Adult Learners attend classes each Monday – Friday from 8:30 am- 4:30 pm. Three Saturday morning classes will also be required.

### **Practicum**

Practical application by teaching in an approved Montessori classroom under the guidance of an experienced Montessori teacher occurs during the practicum. The Adult Learner observes, assists, and participates in the classroom for a 9 month period. Monthly evaluations are made by the Adult Learner and by the supervising teacher. Financial arrangements are the responsibility of the student and the Practicum site. The Practicum is a minimum of 540 hours, usually scheduled in the mornings for 9 months. A curriculum development project is also created by the adult learner during the practicum.

A 16-hour Seminar will be held during the practicum year. The exact dates will be announced.

### **Final Assessment**

Following the practicum, the adult learner returns to the Montessori Center for Teacher Education for one week. During this week the adult learner demonstrates his/her ability to present Montessori materials, shares the years' project, teacher resource manuals, and other assignments with the group. A written test on materials and philosophy is taken. Authentic assessment is finalized with course staff and the adult learner during a final assessment interview.

**Schedule** – Held in June or July each year.



## **Prerequisites to receive the AMS Early Childhood and AMS Associate Early Childhood Credentials**

Adult learners are not required to have a Bachelor's degree in order to take the course but must be, as a minimum, a high school graduate. Those who do not have a Bachelor's degree are eligible to receive an AMS Associate Early Childhood credential. If in the future, a Bachelor's degree is obtained, the Associate EC credential may be upgraded to an AMS Early Childhood credential.

In order to receive the AMS Early Childhood credential, the adult learner must have a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

Montessori Center for Teacher Education welcomes diversity in our student body, faculty, and staff. We adhere to a policy of non-discrimination in regard to race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.