

Michigan Montessori Society presents
Montessori Best Practices
Saturday, March 10, 2018

KEYNOTE—9-10:20 a.m.

Supporting Transitions in Montessori Communities

Presenter: Toko Blais Odorczuk

Navigating transitions is an important lifelong skill. In schools, times of transition can create stress and anxiety for the child, his or her family, and the teacher(s). Preparation for necessary change allows the process to become clear, manageable, and many times even enjoyable. This keynote will explore the many transitions that the child, and consequently the family, experience over the course of childhood, and how we manage these transitions through preparation of the environment and ourselves as teachers and administrators.

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS—10:30 a.m.-noon

Toddler Level—Morning Session

#1 Language with Toddlers

Presenter: Toko Blais Odorczuk

It is a human tendency to communicate with others. Dr. Montessori realized this, declaring “To talk is in the nature of man.” Children, therefore, are programmed to take in and master the language of their culture. This workshop will focus on the ways in which we foster language development for the child under three years.

Primary (3-6) Level—Morning Sessions

#2 Practical Life is Everyday Living

Presenter: Debra Gorman Cagle

Through lecture, PowerPoint presentation, and discussion, participants in this workshop will understand this vital curriculum area: the subject, the young child’s needs, the scope and sequence. This topic is key to unlocking the Montessori primary environment.

#3 Music in the 3-6 Classroom

Presenters: Patti Yonka and Pat Moore

Come and explore music in the Montessori 3-6 environment. This session will include movement, percussion instruments, and singing.

Elementary Level—Morning Session

#4 Mathematics in the Elementary Classroom

Presenter: Brian Campbell

We will examine the Montessori materials for working with squaring, square roots, cubing and cube roots, multiplication with the decimal checkerboard, The Montessori Great Race, and fractions for adding and subtracting with different denominators. Please come with questions that are a concern for your students and I will try to help give solutions both mathematically and psychologically.

All Levels and Administration—Morning Sessions

#5 The Montessori and Maslow Hookup: The Scandal and Reward of Dating Two Theories at the Same Time (Session repeats in the afternoon)

Presenter: Shannon Tyrybon

The utopian state of the normalized Montessori classroom can sometimes feel impossible to reach. The energy of your school changes not only year to year but also day to day. Your relationships with students, as well as fellow staff members, are different, complex, and always evolving. This workshop is for teachers, assistants, and administrators who are searching for concrete steps toward creating a more consistent environment as well as more idealized relationships. If you can handle a theory that has Montessori involved with another man, then this workshop is for you.

#6 Practical Strategies to Develop Trust and Rapport with Staff, Peers, and Parents. (Session repeats in the afternoon)

Presenter: Rick Lamos

As a Montessori “Dad” I quickly came to appreciate the practical value of the Montessori philosophy and have worked in both a private setting to support Montessori as well as in a public school partnership. While I have developed and taught effective communication tools and programs, I also work daily implementing and using these skills in complex organizational circumstances. Join us as I share ideas that can be adapted to your own organization.

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS—1-2:30 p.m.

Toddler Level—Afternoon Session

#7 The Essential Role of the Toddler Assistant

Presenter: Toko Blais Odorczyk

The Montessori toddler assistant has a very important and unique role in the classroom. Along with providing support to the classroom teacher, he or she must share in the responsibility of creating and maintaining the classroom environment, extending beyond the physical elements in the room. This workshop will explore the unique role of the toddler assistant. Participants will gain deeper knowledge of the Montessori approach for the child under three; understand the specific role of the toddler assistant; obtain practical strategies for supporting normalization, including when and how to intervene and resolve conflict; discuss techniques for building trust with the children; improve communication skills for classroom teacher/assistant dyads; and increase their effectiveness as a classroom assistant.

Primary (3-6) Level—Afternoon Sessions

#8 The Importance of the Prepared Environment

Presenter: Debra Gorman Cagle

Discussion and lecture on how to create a successful prepared environment, and why it is important, are the focus of this workshop. Included will be tips on how to arrange for good traffic patterns, how to create an environment that flows, which in turn promotes peacefulness and helps you master classroom management.

#9 Reading and Writing Music with Extended Day Children

Presenters: Patti Yonka and Pat Moore

Extended Day children are ready for more advanced musical experiences, and have more time in which to explore concepts. Join us for ideas on how to engage your “senior” students.

Elementary Level—Afternoon Session

#10 Weave a Cross-Curricular Path

Presenter: Carey Wendell

Dr. Montessori claimed that one aspect of our jobs is to create an environment where students are learning in context, and where teaching follows the interests of the child. We also have the challenge of a rich curriculum and limited time. Some teachers also must satisfy state requirements that may generate even more curriculum to which the student needs to be exposed. All of these are excellent reasons to weave a cross-curricular path. When teachers develop lessons that cross three or more curricular areas, the result is lessons that are memorable, fun, and just pop! Come learn about the ways to think outside the box and get lessons that let you motivate the children, follow their interests, and check off a lot of your “boxes” in one fell swoop. This interactive presentation will have you walking out with ideas you can implement immediately.

All Levels and Administration—Afternoon Sessions

#11 The Montessori and Maslow Hookup: The Scandal and Reward of Dating Two Theories at the Same Time (Repeated from the morning session—see above)

Presenter: Shannon Tyrybon

#12 Practical Strategies to Develop Trust and Rapport with Staff, Peers, and Parents. (Repeated from the morning session—see above)

Presenter: Rick Lamos

OUR PRESENTERS

DEBRA GORMAN CAGLE has been a Montessori primary (3-6) teacher and a Montessori teacher trainer for over 35 years. She is a lead teacher at the Felician Children's Center Montessori in Jackson, Michigan. She loves working as a teacher trainer in Practical Life, Mathematics, Classroom Leadership and Observation for the Adrian Montessori Teacher Academy in Mishawaka, Indiana. In addition she is an adjunct faculty member in Education at Siena Heights University.

BRIAN CAMPBELL received his AMI diploma for ages 6-12 from the Washington Montessori Institute in 1988, and his Master of Arts in Teaching from Wayne State University. He has taught at the Maria Montessori School in Farmington, the Allen Park Montessori School, and Dearborn Heights Montessori Center. Over his 29 years of teaching, he has worked at the lower elementary, upper elementary, and junior high levels. He enjoys stamp collecting, origami, and traditional rug hooking. He is currently taking piano lessons and sings with the "Gentlemen Songsters." He and his wife have raised four children and have six grandchildren.

RICK LAMOS received his Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Drake University. For 30+ years he has consulted with Fortune 1000 firms and small businesses to assist them in improving their effectiveness in communicating with their employee teams, clients, and customers.

PATRICIA MOORE has a Masters in Early Childhood Education and AMS 3-6 Certification. With Patti Yonka, she has taught Montessori music in the 3-6 classroom, classroom management, and peace education, as well as Montessori bells at two AMS Teacher Education Programs: Bowling Green Montessori Education Program, 1999-2005 and Buffalo Montessori Teacher Education Program, 2004-2018. Pat taught in the primary classroom for 32 years. She has also presented the Parent Talk program at many schools. Pat was a long-term member of the Michigan Montessori Society board of directors, most recently as the society's president. She has mentored many developing teachers, and presented numerous workshops, often focusing on music and peace education.

TOKO BLAIS ODORCZUK has fifteen years' experience guiding Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) toddler communities. In addition to her classroom experience, she is a featured guest lecturer at area colleges and universities, presenting on Montessori education and its pedagogical approach to childhood. Toko has offered numerous parenting workshops throughout New England and is an expert in child development for birth-three. She provides parenting programs throughout Greater Hartford, Connecticut in underserved communities. Toko holds a BA in English Literature and a BA in Music theory/composition. Her AMI diploma in Assistants to Infancy (0-3) is from The Montessori Institute in Denver, Colorado. Additionally, she is a certified Instructor of Infant Massage through the International Association of Infant Massage (IAIM). Toko Odorczyk is currently the Outreach Coordinator at The Montessori School of Greater Hartford and music teacher for their adolescent program

SHANNON TYRYBON is a lead teacher at the Montessori Center of Downriver in Southgate. She is also a graduated parent of three children who happily thrived at the same school as well. Shannon earned her preprimary credential with AMS, a bachelor's in psychology with a concentration in early childhood development, and her M.Ed. with a concentration in Montessori. She loves to discuss educational theory and philosophy and plans on being a life-long learner of all topics concerning human development.

CAREY WENDELL graduated from the University of California-Davis with a B.S. in Genetics and completed her M.S. degree in Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also holds Master of Arts in Teaching – Elementary Education, and Education Specialist in Leadership degrees from Oakland University. Cary is AMS-certified for lower and upper elementary from MMTEC and has completed her Middle School training at the Houston Montessori Center. She has experience working with public, charter, and private Montessori schools throughout the state, and also serves as an elementary Montessori teacher trainer at MMTEC. When she is not teaching, Carey enjoys gardening, baking, and visiting family in Leelanau County, as well as listening to and performing music. She and her husband Doug have two college-age daughters (both Montessori kids).

PATTI YONKA has been a musician since she was 18 months old. Playing piano, baritone ukulele, guitar, and recorder, she continues to enjoy sharing her love and enthusiasm for music as a universal language. With Pat Moore, she has worked in her classroom, and together they have educated adult learners for the Bowling Green Montessori Education Program and the Buffalo Montessori Teacher Education Program. Patti is AMS-credentialed at Elementary I and II levels, and an experienced workshop presenter in the U.S. and internationally, with focus on music and peace education. She is the creator of the CD *Peace Through Music*. Her travels with guitar have taken her to Israel, Poland, China, South Korea, Ghana, Benin, and the Czech Republic.