



Inclusive Education: A Revolutionary Step in AMI Professional Development

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THE MONTESSORI INSTITUTE OF SAN DIEGO

Inclusive Education Groups

A short story

Course #1: 2014-2015



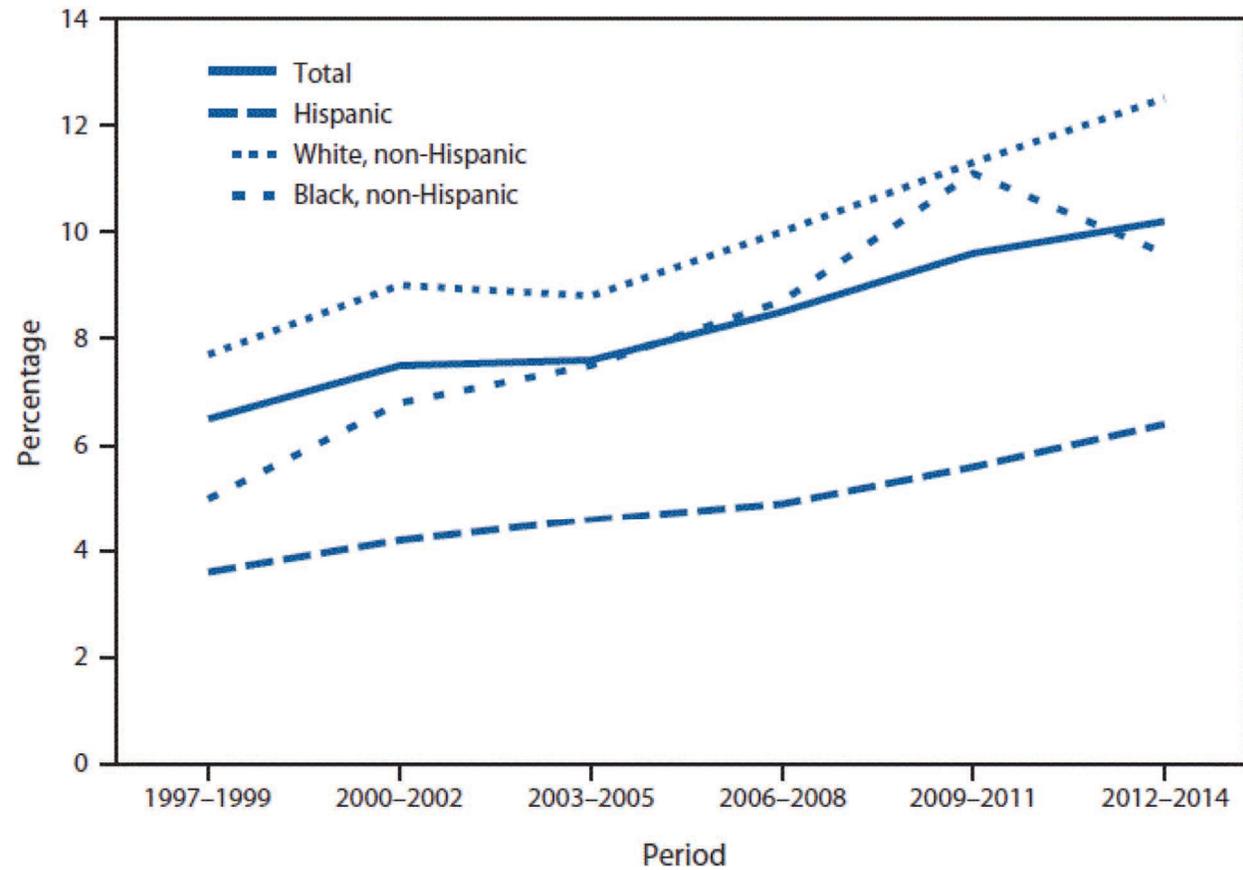
Course #2: 2016-2017



The Rise of Developmental Disabilities

- In 2018, 7.2% of the total population of 5 to 19 year olds worldwide had ADHD. That is roughly 129 million children.
- Dyslexia is perhaps the best known learning disability with more than 700 million children and adults worldwide in this category.
- 1 in 160 children has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- **About 1 in 6 children in the United States has a developmental disability. These children are in ALL Montessori classrooms.**

ADHD in USA



ADHD

- The **2016 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)** interviewed parents and reports the following ADHD prevalence data among children ages 2–17 (Danielson et al. 2018):
- 5.4 million children (**8.4 %**) have a **current diagnosis** of ADHD.
 - About 335,000 young children ages 2-5
 - 2.2 million school-age children ages 6-11
 - 2.9 million adolescents ages 12-17

Dyslexia

- Dyslexia occurs in at least **1 in 10 people**.
- More than 700 million children and adults worldwide are at risk of life-long illiteracy and social exclusion.
- Due to global lack of awareness and knowledge of this learning difference, a huge numbers of **students with dyslexia go undiagnosed** and their symptoms unaddressed, with tragic results.
- Research shows that **when teachers are trained in early dyslexia identification and intervention, 90 percent of children with dyslexia can be educated in the regular inclusive classroom.**

Autism spectrum disorder

- **1 in 160 children** has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- ASDs begin in childhood and tend to persist into adolescence and adulthood.
- While some people with ASD can live independently, others have severe disabilities and require life-long care and support.



Limitations on Natural Development that can cause Learning Problems

- Mental, Emotional and Physical Illness
- Minimal Brain Damage or Dysfunction
- Cerebral Palsy
- **Language Pathologies**
- Deafness/ Hard of hearing
- Visual Impairment
- Sensory Integration
- **Autism**
- ADHD
- Affective Deficiencies: Neglect, Ignorance and Rejection
- Tourette Syndrome
- **Behavioral Disorders**
- Abuse, Maltreatment
- Poverty

What is Inclusive Education?

Montessori Education is **for all children** without distinction of race, religion, socioeconomic status and physical or neurological differences.

Nature makes differences and society makes handicaps.



What is Inclusive Education?

- Inclusive Education means giving all children the ability to be part of a typical school community, and to be able to participate and contribute in ways that they can.
- No children are segregated or kept apart.



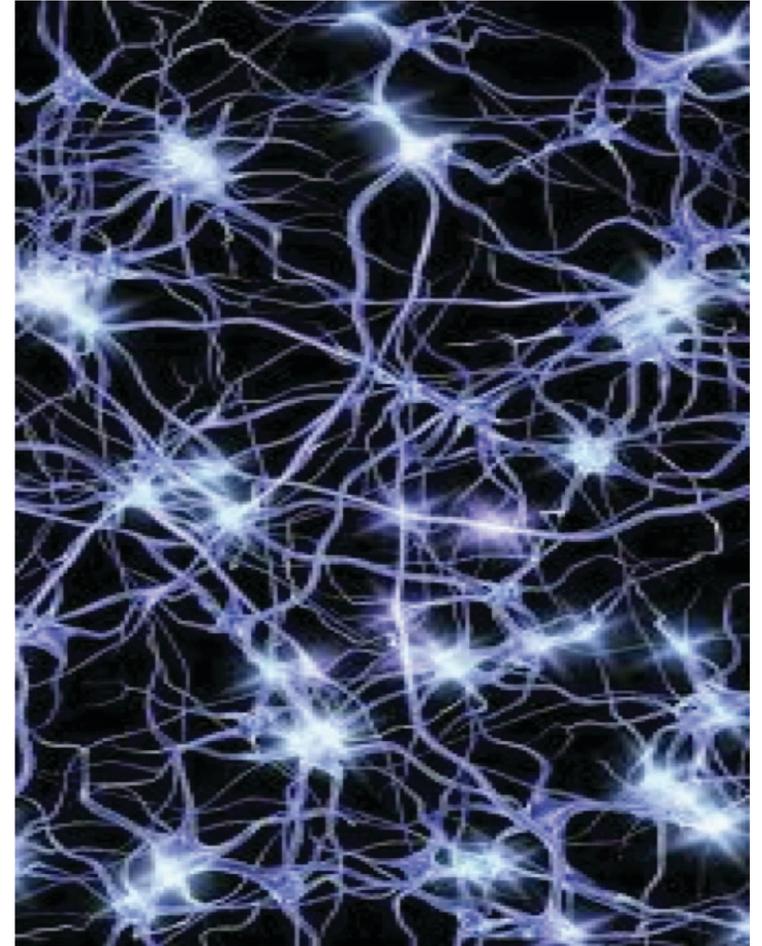
Inclusive environment

In an Inclusive environment, all the children experience:

- a) A greater **sense of the community** in which we live.
- b) Increased opportunity to **develop social skills**.
- c) Greater **empathy for differences** and challenges that individuals face.
- d) **Reinforce their knowledge** as they practice with children that struggle.
- e) See children with exceptionalities **as people**.

Who is the child that needs to be included?

- A child with exceptionalities
- A child who has a physical, intellectual, emotional or social deviation from the norm, in such a degree that it needs special attention and considerations.



Why was this course created? (3 reasons)

1. The changing needs of the children – **increased incidence of developmental disabilities and issues** affecting a child's academic, social and/or emotional growth.



Support for teachers

2. The growing **necessity of teachers to have further support, training and a greater awareness of the children in their care.**



Teachers Need More Support

- Teachers have seen an increase in children with challenging and perplexing peculiarities in their development in the last two decades.



What is at stake?

- Teachers feel frustrated, unable to best support all the children under their care.
- This may result in some **leaving the profession prematurely** and schools without experienced staff who can mentor others or take on leadership positions.

Parents and families

3. The **changing dynamics with parents and community members** who request our ability to guide families in their journey to support a child with specific needs.

Guidance for Families

- **Parents are also overwhelmed** with the changing needs of their child. Parent education, support and collaboration is becoming of great importance.



Some Children Require a Different Approach

- Montessori schools are facing **unprecedented challenges** as they try to serve a wide swath of children with an ever-expanding array of abilities and challenges.
- There are **some children** for whom the traditional approach seems to be inadequate.



Collaborative Team

- Schools need to recognize the role of the family in supporting children with exceptional needs and establishing a **collaborative team** consisting of:
 - the teacher
 - the parents
 - the inclusive education **advocate**
 - and other specialists

Benefits of the Inclusive Education Course

The Inclusive Education course can have a positive impact on:

- a) AMI's ambitious goals for **global expansion**.
- b) Unique opportunity to **link Montessori to modern research**.
- c) Acknowledging that we need to do a better job and embrace other approaches based on **significant outside research that already exists**.

Benefits of the Inclusive Education Course

- d) Enticing a Montessori guide to be a **lifelong learner**.
- e) Broadening and strengthening the roles of training centers to include: **continuing education, parent education, community involvement**.

Benefits to the Montessori Movement

- It is not enough to train teachers. We need to **retain** them.
- Professional Development for teachers.
- Serve a wider range of children.
- Make the Montessori movement stronger and more responsive to the pressing needs of today.
- Resources to serve **every child**.

Benefits to the child and community

- Every child is a **valued member**, with opportunities to contribute and feel part of the group.
- All the children develop their resilience, **empathy and compassion**, learning to work with others who have their own challenges.
- **Schools can retain students** when they support and offer learning plans that truly meet their needs.

Benefits to the Montessori guide

- They receive **tools and best practices** to face the challenges they have.
- A revitalization and opportunity to **reflect on their teaching practice**.
- **Access to outside resources** in the medical and health field

Benefits to the Montessori guide

- The ability to **collaborate with teachers from A to I, Primary and Elementary training**, combining ideas, learning from each other and developing professional relationships and networking.
- The ability to collaborate with teachers from different states and countries, offering a unique **international perspective** on the challenges we face.

Benefits to Alumni/Students

- **Professional development** for every student that has trained in every Montessori center in the world.
- **Deeper exposure** to Montessori theory and scientific observation.
- Discussions on research and **current trends** in inclusive education, society, psychology and neuroscience.



Benefits to Training Centers

- New program for alumni looking for more **opportunities for professional growth** or to become mentors.
- **Research** will help us to have more teachers taking the course.
- **Multidisciplinary approach** will invite others to learn from us.



What do you need to run the course?

- **AMI trained professionals**
- **Passion, energy and a wish to change prejudices and attitudes towards differences.**
- **Profound respect for children!**

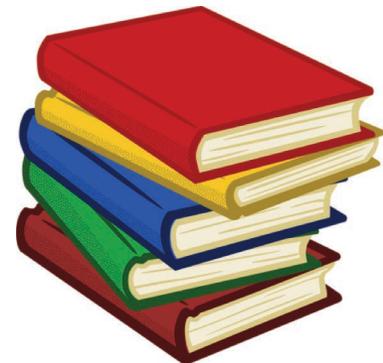


In this course Montessori teachers will learn how to ...

- **Coordinate an interdisciplinary team** for each child.
- Create a **Montessori IEP** (Individualized Education Program)
- Craft a strong **referral to a specialist**.
- Write a **case study** for a Montessori audience.

In this course you Montessori teachers will learn how to ...

- Develop an Inclusive Education **observation protocol** for the school.
- Build a **resource library** for the school.
- Deliver **staff workshops**.
- Ideas for intervention and "**best practices**" within the Montessori environment.
- Specialized, **in-depth observation skills** related to red flags.



Guiding Principles

- Celebrate the **uniqueness** of each child.
- **Character and personality** are the most significant aspects of a person.
- **Avoid labels** which imply that a child is defined by a disability.
- Who knows **what skills are needed** for our future society?



Schedule

Inclusive Education Course

Summer 2018: June 25 – July 13 (3 weeks)

Summer 2019: June 24 – July 17 (3.5 weeks)



Conclusion

- If we want Montessori to **survive and thrive** we need to acknowledge the **changing face of education**.
- Children with exceptionalities have always been in our classrooms. We need to acknowledge a growing need to do better.

Truly Serving all Children

- These children exist in every Montessori classroom at every level. If we are not **discussing these conditions openly** within the Montessori community, we are not serving these children as they deserve to be served.



4 Reasons to Offer this Course

- In summary there are 4 main reasons why **every training center should have this course**:
 1. The Montessori movement cannot reach its **worldwide objectives** without it.
 2. Truly serve **every** child.
 3. Broaden the opportunity for all children to **access** Montessori education.
 4. **A revolutionary step in professional development** for Montessori teachers.

Upcoming Course / Workshop Inquiries

- Visit our website: www.misdami.org
- Contact us by email: training@misdami.org





Thank you

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