
A Study of Human Development

The Montessori Assistants to Infancy Training began in 1947 in Rome. Based on thousands of hours of observation of infants and very young children, the work predated many contemporary findings, including self-hypnosis for childbirth, gentle birth, the awareness of infants, the importance of touch and communication, as well as language, music and joy in the environment. Open space and interesting objects encourage free movement and exploration. Special clothing, furnishings and toys made with careful attention to detail are designed in response to the observed

Scientifically Based

In 1980, Dr. Silvana Montanaro, a psychiatrist who lectured the courses in Rome, integrated the training with current research and offered the first AMI accredited Assistants to Infancy Training. In 1982, she brought this course to the U.S.

A to I students are prepared to work with parents perinatally, to assist with the infant at birth, to prepare beautiful and responsive environments, and to work in infant and toddler communities in schools, day care settings, hospitals and wherever children under age three are found.

The Course

A to I courses are two summers long, with assignments in the intervening academic year. During the summer sessions, students prepare their own reference manuals (albums) and timelines of child development. Some hand-made materials are required (you may be surprised by your hidden abilities.)

Science based on Observation

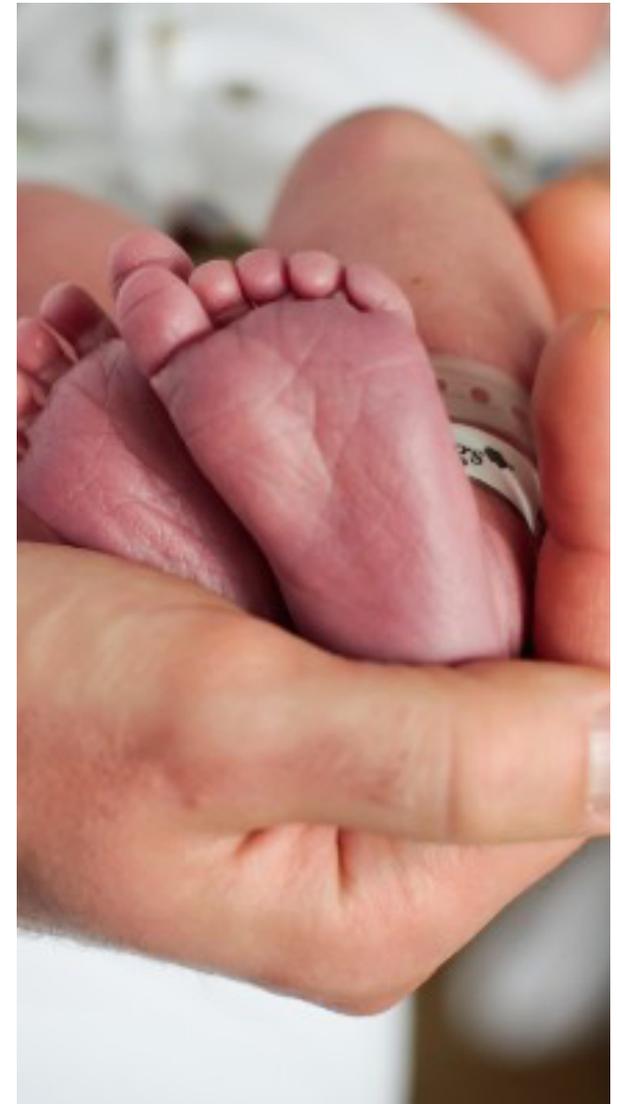
Between the two summers, students complete 250 hours of observation of children from birth to three at home and in group settings. Each student completes one week of student teaching with children in either a Nido or Infant Community. During that week, the student is visited for support and evaluation by a course staff member, either in St. Louis or at one's own location. Travel and lodging expenses are the student's responsibility.



AMI Assistants to Infancy

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A one time offering— the AMI Assistants to Infancy Course in St. Louis!



Director of Training

AMI 0 – 3 Director of Training Sharlyn Smith, an international presenter and AMI examiner, lives in Juneau Alaska. She holds AMI diplomas at both the 0-3 and 3-6 levels and has more than 25 years of classroom experience. She directed the Toddler Community at Juneau Montessori School from 2001-2013, when she became Head of School, a position she held until June of 2015. She earned B.A. degrees in Japanese Language and Literature and International Affairs from the University of Colorado (1984), and holds an M.Ed. in Montessori education from Loyola University. Sharlyn enjoys spending time outside, scuba diving, snowboarding and hiking with her dog. She spends her free time reading and loves travel, looking forward to working internationally in the support of children and families through the implementation of Montessori education.



June 13, 2016 – August 4, 2016

The first summer's work begins with an overview of Montessori theory and practice, following the child's natural development and focusing on the period from conception to age three. Obstetrics, hygiene, and nutrition cover the anatomy and physiology of reproduction, fetal development, birth, health issues, and the puerperium (the first eight weeks after birth).

June 5, 2017 – August 11, 2017

The second summer adds a study of child neuropsychiatry and of environments for children from 12 to 36 months in an Infant Community (out-of-home setting), including appropriate materials and activities.

Evaluation:

The first summer ends with a practice written examination and conference. Comprehensive written and oral examinations are given at the end of the second summer –