



# INDABA INSTITUTE

## AMI MONTESSORI DIPLOMA ASSISTANTS TO INFANCY (0-3)

Course Brochure



LOCALLY  
RELEVANT

QUALITY

AUTHENTIC

COMMUNITY  
BUILDING



## Course Description:

The study of Montessori pedagogy and current medical and psychological approaches to child development from birth to three years.

## Qualification Delivery:

A minimum 400 hours of classroom-based training including lectures and supervised practice, and a minimum of 250 hours of observations of children from birth to three years.

## Application Requirements:

- South African students: NQF Level 4 or equivalent
- International students: A-Level or equivalent
- Proficient in spoken and written English.

## Application Documents:

- Complete application form
- Clear copy of ID or Passport
- CV (outlining academic and employment history)
- Copy of your highest-level education certificate – NQF Level 4 or equivalent (for South African students)
- Copy of your highest-level education certificate - A-Level or equivalent (for International students)
- Two signed letters of recommendation, including contact details of reference
  - One being professional in nature
  - One being a character reference
- Short autobiographical essay (details in Student Handbook)
- Valid police clearance certificate (details in Student Handbook)
- Application fee proof of payment

## Qualification Award:

The AMI Diploma is granted upon satisfactory completion of the following course requirements:

### • Attendance

90% minimum attendance in course lectures and activities, including supervised practice.

### • Theory Album

Compilation and submission of an acceptable theory album.

### • Reference Albums

Compilation and submission of acceptable and original reference albums in all areas.

### • Material Making

Submission of acceptable material making assignments.

### • Theory Papers

Submission of acceptable and original theory papers.

### • Observation

250 hours of observation training, on site and in home or infant communities.

### • Practice Teaching

Practice teaching in a Montessori environment.

### • Written Examinations

Passing marks of 50% or higher on the written examinations.

### • Oral Examinations

Passing marks of 50% or higher on each area of the oral examinations.



### Required Reading:

*By Dr Maria Montessori:*

1. The Absorbent Mind
2. The Child in the Family
3. The Secret of Childhood
4. The 1946 London Lectures

*By Silvana Quattrocchi Montanaro, MD:*

5. Understanding the Human Being

*By AMI:*

6. Medical Text

### Recommended Reading:

Before the start of the course:

1. *By E.M. Standing: Maria Montessori, Her Life and Work*

Throughout the course:

2. *By Lise Elliot: What's Going on In There?*
3. *By Eric Ericson: Childhood and Society*
4. *By Louise Kaplan: Oneness and Separateness*
5. *By Ashley Montague: Touching*
6. *By Daniel Stern: Interpersonal World of The Infant*

### Course Units:

TITLE	CODE	DESCRIPTION
<b>Theory and Psychology</b>		
Montessori Theory	AMID101	Includes: child development, the role of the adult, and the role of the environment. All lectures converge around the central concept of education as a help to life, the study of the child, family, community, human relations, and self-awareness in young children. Special consideration is given to the development of movement, early language activities, and independence.
<b>Medical / Developmental</b>		
Anatomy and Physiology	AMID102	Provides background information on anatomy and physiology of several body systems.
Obstetrics	AMID103	Provides background information on pregnancy, birth, puerperium, and a study of the symbiotic period of life.
Nutrition	AMID104	Provides background information on nutrition.
Hygiene	AMID105	Provides background information on hygiene, child health and safety.



**Course  
Units:**

TITLE	CODE	DESCRIPTION
Child Neuropsychiatry	AMID106	Provides the student with comprehensive information on the development of personality. This area of study looks at work of the brain with a focus on language and movement. We also explore in detail social-emotional development and development of the Intellect in the first 3 years of life with a focus on how to aid this development.
<b>Methodology by Subject</b>		
Psycho-Sensory Theory and Demonstrations	AMID107	Activities for visual, tactile and auditory experiences, eye-hand coordination and to support the development of equilibrium.
Home Environment Theoretical Introduction	AMID108	Provides theoretical understanding of the developmental milestones reached at each stage, with a focus on weaning, sleeping and toileting.
Home Environment Demonstrations	AMID109	Provides practical information on how to create a simple, inexpensive, effective environment for the child at home.
Communities Theoretical Introduction	AMID110	Practical guidance and principles on how to start communities for infants and toddlers in a community environment. To include the people working there, the amount of space (e.g. for sleeping, feeding, physical care, movement, etc.) covering the ages: 2 months – 14/16 months; and 14/16 months – 2/3 years.
Communities Demonstrations	AMID111	Language, movement and music, and art activities. Exercises of practical life, to include care of the person, care of the environment (indoor and outdoor), grace and courtesy, movement of furniture, food (organisational, preparation, and children's activities).
<b>Practicum and Observation</b>		
Supervised Practice	AMID112	Supervised practice workshops in which the student undertakes, over the course of the study programme, to complete the required amount of supervised practical work with the various materials in order to understand both their theoretical and practical applications. Sessions are structured to create a dynamic situation in which students can individually demonstrate how they would practically present activities to the child and then to discuss constructively with the group the effectiveness of that presentation and its essential elements.





**Course  
Units:**

TITLE	CODE	DESCRIPTION
		To relate the practicalities of the materials in respect of the development of the child.
Observation	AMID113	Observation is at the core of the Montessori guide's work. During the course students undertake 250 observation hours of children of different ages.
Teaching Practicum		Work experience for a mandatory number of hours in 0-3 environments must also be completed satisfactorily. Each student undertakes a self-assessment of their practice and is also assessed by those responsible for the environment.







## Indaba Institute

The Indaba Institute was founded in 2017 by André Shearer to address the many social injustices in South Africa that are rooted in trauma and neglect experienced as a child. Our Institute empowers individuals, especially women, to become community shaping exemplars in the face of gender-based violence, deep societal inequality, and a legacy of racial prejudice. We collaborate with our partners through a shared vision to bring quality education to all communities and transform society by utilising the marvelous potential of the child.

The Indaba Institute is a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) associated with the Department of Social Development.

## The Mission

The mission of the Indaba Institute is to bring about human development through high quality education, and we do this by offering teacher training that is accessible and locally-relevant.

## AMI Montessori Training

The Association Montessori Internationale accredits training centres throughout the world. These centres offer AMI diploma courses that are internationally recognised for their high standard and authenticity.

The courses offered by the Association Montessori Internationale prepare adults to work with children at the following levels: Assistants to Infancy (0-3), Primary (3-6), First Plane (0-6) and Elementary (6-12).

Each year thousands of teachers and classroom assistants are trained worldwide. The number of AMI teachers graduating is still less than demand which is due to the worldwide recognition of the quality of the AMI Diploma.

All training centres are staffed by highly qualified AMI teacher trainers, and a pedagogical team of experienced advisors ensures that the objectives of Maria Montessori's pedagogical principles are maintained. Students are examined by external examiners, appointed by AMI, to further ensure the high standard and integrity of the courses. Training centres may also run courses at more than one geographical site.



Indaba Montessori Institute NPC t/a Indaba Institute

Reg. No: 2017/116452/08 | NPO No: 250-902 NPO | Directors: A.G. Shearer, C.V. Poole, S.P. Pienaar  
Lynedoch Road, Lynedoch, Stellenbosch, 7603, South Africa | Tel: +27 (0) 21 881 3500 | Email: [admin@indabainstitute.org](mailto:admin@indabainstitute.org)  
[www.indabainstitute.org](http://www.indabainstitute.org)