



IMTC ELEMENTARY
CHENNAI



Knowledge can be best
given where there is
eagerness to learn



Director:

Gunasekharan Kavitha, Director at IMTC- Elementary- Chennai, is a graduate in Physics from PSGRK – Coimbatore. She has an Honours diploma in Network Centered Computing from NIIT. She is a University first in Carnatic music from Annamalai University in grade 5 and holds an International graduate Diploma in Counselling and Psychology from Banjara Academy.

Kavitha, started her journey in the Montessori methodology in the year 2004 when she joined CMTC (Centre for Montessori Training Courses), now IMTC-C, to be trained in the Montessori Primary Methodology under Mrs. Uma Shanker and Ms. Chithra as her mentors. This was a life changing point in her life. She then went on to work with children in Abacus Montessori School, Perungudi, Chennai. In due course she pursued the Elementary course from AMI – Navadisha in the year 2009 under Ms. Jean Miller and Ms. Carla Foster.

She continued to work with children in the elementary environments in Abacus Montessori School. She had the opportunity to set up the elementary environment from scratch taking every detail into account. She implemented the methodology in several environments. She trained teachers in the Montessori Method for the rural schools run by Relief Foundation and Sriram Foundation in 2012. Here she also worked in the primary and elementary environments providing learning opportunities for homeschoolers.

She founded Aakam Montessori Learning Centre at Pallikaranai, in the year 2013, where she caters to the needs of children from 3 years to 14 years of age, with an aim to give them the 'Joy of learning'. She has had an enriching experience working with children with varied difficulties and is astonished to see how the method works like magic, with all the children alike, bringing them to normalcy as they also discover the "Joy in Learning". This asserted her the universality of the Montessori method. The children have been her mentors in understanding the philosophy at a deeper level and that which is practically applicable.

Her Journey as a trainer for the adults began in 2013 since when she has been associated with IMTC-Chennai's Elementary-teacher training programme. As a trainer of adults at IMTC-Chennai, she has had the responsibility for the design and execution of the elementary course in its practical and pedagogical aspects. She believes that only when the adult breaks the notions of a regular schooling that one has been through can one look at the child constructing herself. She has held the following positions as part of the Elementary courses at IMTC-C:

- **Associate Director for Elementary courses -**
- **2017-18,**
- **2018-19 and**
- **2019-20**

- **External faculty for the IMTCs' at Bangalore, Pollachi & Vietnam.**
- **External examiner for the IMTCs' at Bangalore, Tirupur and Coimbatore.**
- **Conferred with Directorship by IMC on 26th October 2019**
- **Director of the Elementary course, IMTC- Chennai - 2020-21**

Under Elements of Elementary, an initiative to bring the Montessori Elementary community together she has conducted workshops in Chennai and Bangalore.



Indian Montessori Centre

Indian Montessori Centre (IMC) is a registered society with its headquarters in Bangalore, India. The Indian Montessori Centre was formed in 1989 to support the Indian Montessori Training Courses (IMTC) and propagate the Montessori philosophy and the Montessori method of education. As at the end of 2019, there are 18 one-year courses being conducted by IMTCs in 14 centres every year. Indian Montessori Centre awards diplomas to the successful students of the Primary and Elementary courses being conducted in different parts of the country every year by various IMTCs. As a national organization it admits individual as well as institutional members from India and abroad and has active chapters in Bangalore-Karnataka, Chennai-Tamil Nadu and Gurgaon-North India.

IMTC-Elementary-Chennai:

IMTC-Chennai has been conducting Montessori Elementary courses since 2012. It has successfully completed 6 courses and students passed out of IMTC-Chennai have established their own schools or are working in Elementary environments across India. IMTC-Elementary-Chennai is established as an independent entity from February 2021. It functions under the aegis of IMC - Bengaluru.

IMTC-Elementary-Chennai started as a spark to reach out to children far and many, with the right approach to education as an aid to life. For most of the population Montessori education is considered to be expensive and not within the reach of the ordinary. IMTC - Elementary started as an initiative to take quality education to every nook and corner of the country and beyond at an affordable cost. Education is the right of every child and we as educators have the responsibility to deliver it in the right manner. Let's make learning a joyful experience for every child.



The Infrastructure

A well-equipped Montessori environment is the home ground for the course. The Elementary environment at IMTC-Elementary-Chennai is located at Aakam Montessori Learning Centre, No.35/c, 3rd Street, IIT colony, Narayanapuram, Pallikaranai, Chennai -600100. It is furnished with the complete set of didactic material for the students to practice with. The environment is well lit, spacious and arranged in an orderly manner for the students to have a clear understanding and experience of the practical aspects of a Montessori environment.

About the course:

An IMTC diploma is respected for its intricacy in interweaving the Montessori philosophy with the life of every trainee student. This course enables one to understand the child of the age 6yrs to 12 yrs (the second plane of development) as a whole being. The child in this developmental plane has unique characteristics different from the previous and latter. These deeper perspectives of the child will be revealed through the course, giving oneself enough opportunities to revel, debate, discuss and arrive at an understanding which will transform one's belief into a way of life.


The hands-on experience with the material and observations of the children are the unique aspects of the course that helps every trainee have a firm hold on the methodology. Learning the concepts practically and layering them with every other discipline to look at it holistically gives them a clear understanding of the implementation of Cosmic Education for the children of the second plane of development. The trainees are thus capable of establishing conducive environments for the children, where learning becomes a natural bi-product of their explorations.



The Course overview:


The Course at IMTC-Elementary-Chennai is spread over one year. The students are given a foundation of the essence of the Primary course, which helps them understand the child who comes in to the elementary environment. The contents of the Elementary course are interwoven across various disciplines based on “Cosmic Education” that Dr. Montessori envisioned for the child of 6yrs to 12 years of age.

The course is structured in three layers

- **Psychology** - Understanding the needs and characteristics of the child of the second plane: Who this child is, with respect to his behaviour and nature.
 - **Technical** - How do we as adults equip ourselves to meet these needs and help this child, that we aid in their constructive behaviour.
 - **Spiritual** (not in the religious context) - The way of doing this - of correlating the subjects with one another, by means of the central and inspiring idea of the Cosmic Education.
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Subjects and some of the major topics dealt with are:



Geography - This encompasses the study of evolution of the earth, its constitution, physical geography - the phenomenons that prevail the earth- air, water, seasons, climate etc, Human geography - the societal component, economic geography.

History - evolutionary history of life, humans, Fundamental needs leading to inventions and discoveries, civilisations, migrations, study of time- horizontal and vertical affecting the lives of people.



Botany – The study of the needs and functions of the whole plant and thereby the parts – leaves, the stem, the root, the flower, the fruit and the seed going from the whole to the parts and relating to the whole – Classification of the plant kingdom.

Zoology – The detailed study of the characteristics of the five classes of the animal kingdom, external features and lives of the different classes of the animal kingdom, human anatomy, ecology, classification of the animal kingdom.

Arithmetic – From the basic concepts of numeration and quantification to decimal system of numbers, the four operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimal fractions and integers. Introduction to algebra, squaring and square roots, cubing and cube roots, mensuration, percentage ratio and proportion and word problems.

Geometry – The basic study of geometric shapes and plane figures their congruence, similarity and equivalence, constructions, area, the three-dimensional figures and volume.

Language – Study of English includes aspects of grammar – parts of speech, word study, detailed analysis of sentences and their parts, providing the basis for interpretive reading, creative writing, clear thinking and logical analysis.

The above mentioned topics under various disciplines are not exhaustive, but gives a glimpse of the variety of topics covered during the course at IMTC-Elementary-Chennai. Theory on the Montessori philosophy and child psychology is the thread that holds the whole curriculum intact.



Attendance

- 90% attendance for the theory classes
- 100% attendance for the practical sessions
- Punctuality in attending lectures, practice classes and any workshop or event organized for the benefit of the students. Late comers will be given half-attendance for the day.
- Any case of absence should be notified, in writing beforehand.
- A medical certificate stating the nature and duration of the illness has to be submitted in case of absence due to illness (requiring more than 3 days of leave).
- Sick-leave and any other absence lasting more than 4 consecutive weeks will disqualify the student from sitting for the examination.

Examination

The examination consists of two parts, written and practical. The written part consolidates the student's understanding of the theoretical part of the course. The practical examination consists of the demonstration of the use of the Montessori material. One or more exercises in each of the areas will have to be demonstrated followed by a viva-voce. This will encompass the overall understanding of the philosophy and the skill of presenting any concept.

Compliance

Compliance of the following qualifies the student for taking up the examinations (which have to be passed successfully in order to obtain the Diploma):

- Meeting all the attendance criteria
- Written and other work during the course is submitted on time and approved by the faculties
- All fees have been paid

Student who has registered and failed to appear on the scheduled date and appointed time for the examinations or any part thereof, for a valid reason, may be given an opportunity at the discretion of the Director, IMTC-Elementary-Chennai, to appear for the examinations, to be held at a later date. In such a case, the student will have to pay the full examination fee once again and may also be required to attend additional classes for which a fee will be charged.

The student will have to apply for re-examination in writing latest on the day scheduled for his/her appearance with full explanation of his/her failure to appear as scheduled; medical grounds will have to be attested by a regular medical certificate.

All registration, tuition and other fees paid by the students are not refundable. Students who are granted permission to appear for a re-examination in one of the two parts, and students who are required to attend additional classes, are required to pay additional fees as applicable.

Eligibility

For the course at IMTC-Elementary-Chennai, the candidate seeking admission should have completed 21 years of age and hold a Graduation in any discipline from a recognised University. Fluency in English is a pre-requisite for this course, as the medium of instruction is English.



Admission Procedure

1. The duly filled in registration form with the attachments (refer below) should be submitted in person by the applicant, at the centre.

- Two copies of the passport size photograph (recently taken). These photographs must mention the name and contact number of the applicant.
- A hand-written essay (in English) of about 300 words giving a biography of the applicant, reasons for wanting to do this course and expectations from it.
- Copies of the certificates and mark sheets (higher secondary, Graduation in any discipline, other qualifications), duly attested by a gazetted officer or notary.
- A medical certificate of good health and fitness.
- Duly signed consent form.

2. The Registration fee of Rs 5,000/- has to be paid along with the registration form. The registration form will be considered for admission procedure only if the registration fee has been received.

- Incomplete registration forms will not be considered for the admission process.
- The registration forms should reach the office within the stipulated time.
- Acceptance of the registration form does not qualify the applicant for admission into the course. Personal interview/s will be conducted to complete the admission process. The final decision for admission of an applicant into the course lies with the Director



Fees

- The registration fee will be refunded in case of non admittance into the course after the interview.
- Once the student is enrolled into the course no part of the fee will be refunded in case of discontinuance from the course, for any reasons including ineligibility or failure to appear for examinations.



Diploma

The Diploma awarded after a candidate passes the examination successfully qualifies the Diploma holder to apply the Montessori Method to the education of children between 6 and 12 years of age. It also qualifies the Diploma holder to use the name "Montessori" for the group of children in his/her charge provided it is fully equipped, directed and organised, according to the requirements of the Montessori method as set forth during the course of training.

The diploma will be awarded by the Indian Montessori Centre. It will be signed by the Chairman of IMC, the Director-Board of Studies and the Director of the Training Course. NB: The diploma will be handed over ONLY to the STUDENT and to no other person or institution.

Holidays

Unrestricted public holidays declared by the Government of India and as observed by the State will be followed.

Recommended reading

The following books by Dr. Maria Montessori are study material to be purchased:

- To Educate the Human Potential
- From Childhood to Adolescence
- Advanced Montessori Method Vol I
- Advanced Montessori Method Vol II
- The Absorbent Mind

The following books also by Dr. Maria Montessori are recommended for reading:

- The Discovery of the Child
- The Formation of Man
- Education for a New World
- The Secret of Childhood (New edition 1982)
- Education and Peace