Click here to register online!
Finding the ‘Hook’: Montessori Strategies to Support Concentration

Hotel Reservation Deadline Is September 22
Sheraton Columbia Hotel, Maryland
Call 1-888-627-8318 to reserve your hotel room
Concentration and engagement are the guideposts for our work, yet now more than ever we see children who are distracted and unable to connect to the right activity that will fully capture their attention and aid them in developing their full capacity. We have the tools to help children integrate mind and body, to concentrate despite distractions, and to engage in positive social interactions, but we also need help finding the “hook” that opens the door for children.

Thursday, October 6, 2016
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Registration

Friday, October 7, 2016
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Registration and Coffee
9:00–10:30 a.m.
Finding the Path to Normality
Annette Haines

The “hook” is central to student engagement. As an AMI primary trainer, Haines’ adult learners memorize the sequence “Interest is first, then repetition, then concentration and finally normalization.” Those that don’t understand normalization either fail completely (chaos) or begin to use coercion to achieve something that looks like normalization but is really adult control. Haines will show how Montessori adults can lead through the process of normalization and help children hook into their own learning.

10:30–10:45 a.m.
Break
Friday, October 7, 2016, continued

10:45 a.m.–Noon
Identifying True Normality in the Elementary Child
Kay Baker

What makes self-motivation true and intensive at the elementary level, especially for ages 9-12 where work is often laced with assignments and homework? Elementary-aged children can look busy, do busywork, and complete assigned follow-up work without true self-motivation. Baker will present principles on building independent inquiry and choice as she presents how to apply key lessons so that the students drive the learning.

Noon–1:00 p.m.
Lunch

1:00–4:30 p.m. (2:30–2:45 Break)
Breakout Sessions (choose one)

A. Theory into Practice: The Normalized Child under Three
Alyssa Conklin-Moore
Sensitive periods can be maximized in their prime by creating specific environments and classroom practices that build development through independent work. Conklin-Moore will discuss how to build focus and concentration at both the individual and social levels.

B. Finding Meaning in Everyday Life
Jennifer Shields
Dr. Montessori described the adult’s role in the primary as being a dynamic link between the child and the environment. Primary guides can be the dynamic link that hooks children into the excitement, discovery, and fun of the materials in our Casas. Keeping our practical life activities and lessons relevant, beautiful, and alive will be an important part of the “hook,” as will delightful spoken language enrichment: true stories, conversations, songs, poetry, and more. This workshop will help guides to facilitate engaged work and elevate a child’s work.

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C. Engaging the Elementary in Meaningful Handwork and Follow-Up Work

Ellen Lebitz

Work with the hands as follow-up in any area, from history to music, supports concentration and engagement. This lecture will focus on cultivating a culture of work and engagement from the early period of transition from Children’s House into lower elementary and through the upper elementary years. Examples of specific media and techniques that lend themselves to creative follow-up work will be shown along with descriptions and demonstrations for how to break down the skills needed to work with these media. A Power Point featuring photographs of the work of children of various ages and in a wide variety of areas of study will be shown. Practicalities addressed will include how to deal with work-in-progress, how to track children’s projects, how to guide children in scope and scale, and how to deal with unfinished projects and loose ends. Teacher collaboration to keep continuity throughout the child’s experience at the school will also be discussed.

Saturday, October 8, 2016

9:00–9:45 a.m.

The Craftsmanship of Thought (Part 1)

Maggie Jackson

Join award-winning author and journalist Maggie Jackson as she shares the simple steps we can take to harness and cultivate our most important human faculties: focus and reflection. Jackson will discuss what is at risk in this era of easy distraction and always-on connectivity and will also review the historic roots of our high-tech, high-speed culture and how our devices are redefining what it means to be smart. Learn how to ask the right questions of technology, role model for coming generations the wise balance between human and machine, and draw on the forgotten bonds between workmanship and higher-order thinking. Look ahead to a reflective, connective, and focused future.

9:45–10:15 a.m.

Break
Saturday, October 8, 2016, continued

10:15–11:00 a.m.
Keynote: The Craftsmanship of Thought (Part 2)
Maggie Jackson

11:00–11:30 a.m.
Question and Answer Session with Maggie Jackson

11:30 a.m.–Noon
Book Signing with Maggie Jackson

Noon–1:00 p.m.
Lunch

11:00–4:30 p.m. (2:30–2:45 Break)
Breakout Sessions (choose one)

D. The Foundations of Well-Being for the Child under Six Explained to Parents
Alyssa Conklin-Moore
The maximum effort of work connected to the inner needs of the child at both the individual and social levels needs to be explicit to parents who are looking at expected levels of independence through the prepared environment design and home activities.

E. Focusing Attention through Movement (3-6)
Uma Ramani
Montessori’s first premise is that movement and cognition are closely entwined, and movement can enhance thinking and learning. In this breakout, Ramani will demonstrate ways in which movement captures the foundations of attention and well-being. Montessori developmental outcomes go well beyond cognition, and movement is the cornerstone for the emotional, moral, and social applications of working with children in a Montessori practice.

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Saturday, October 8, 2016, continued

F. Facilitating Concentration in the Elementary:
Seeds of Moral Development and Social Collaboration
David Kahn and Gerard Leonard
Kahn and Leonard portray their lifetime of work with elementary children in the natural world. Through the integration of writing and natural history and the practice of creative dramatics and seminars, 6-12 learners are transformed into passionate, focused community members.

Sunday, October 9, 2016

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Conference Summary
Panel Discussion with Conference Speakers
Maggie Jackson is an award-winning author and former columnist for The Boston Globe and is known for her penetrating coverage of social issues, especially technology’s impact on humanity. Her essays and articles have appeared in The New York Times, Business Week, Utne, and on National Public Radio. Her acclaimed book Distracted: The Erosion of Attention and the Coming Dark Age jump-started a global conversation on the steep costs of fragmenting our attention. She is a vice president and senior fellow at the New York-based think tank The Center for Talent Innovation, a past affiliate of the Institute of the Future in Palo Alto, and a former journalism fellow in child and family policy at the University of Maryland.

Montessori Trained Speakers

Kay Baker has been an AMI director of training for twenty-eight years and has directed both academic year and summer courses during this time. She is currently directing an elementary modular course in Prague, Czech Republic as well as a summer course in Girona, Spain. Her academic qualifications include a bachelor’s degree in mathematics, a master’s and PhD in mathematics education, and AMI diplomas for children ages 3-6 and 6-12. Baker is also an AMI consultant for primary and elementary classes. She has given many talks and workshops nationally and internationally on topics ranging from the four planes of development to suitable classroom practices.

Alyssa Conklin-Moore has been with Hershey Montessori School since 1999. She received her bachelor of arts in anthropology with a minor in psychology from Oberlin College in 1998. She attended the Ohio Montessori Training Institute where she earned her AMI primary diploma in 1999 and completed her AMI assistants to infancy diploma in 2000. She also earned her master’s in education from Cleveland State University specializing in Montessori education as well as curriculum development and instruction.

Annette Haines is the director of training for the Montessori Training Center of St. Louis and is currently the chairperson of the AMI scientific pedagogical group. Haines holds both AMI primary and elementary diplomas. Additionally, she has a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from Washington University, a master’s degree in education from Cleveland State University, and a doctorate in education from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville with research focused on continued on the following page
concentration and normalization within the Montessori prepared environment. Haines is an internationally recognized lecturer, examiner, and trainer of the Association Montessori Internationale. Her articles have been published in *AMI Communications, The NAMTA Journal,* and *Montessori Talks to Parents."

**David Kahn** has been executive director of the North American Montessori Teachers’ Association for more than forty years. Mr. Kahn was founding program director of the Hershey Montessori School’s Adolescent Community in Huntsburg, OH and is founding executive director emeritus of the Montessori High School at University Circle in Cleveland, OH. David has played a key role in starting a public-private partnership for Stonebrook Montessori school serving ages eighteen months through eighteen years in Cleveland. Mr. Kahn holds a BA in fine arts and classics from the University of Notre Dame (IN) as well as the AMI elementary diploma from Bergamo.

**Ellen Lebitz** is currently in the AMI Elementary Training of Trainers program. She holds a BA in fine art and an MA in studio art from the University at Albany (NY). She earned her AMI primary diploma in 1993 and elementary diploma in 1996. She has seventeen years of administrative experience and eighteen years of classroom experience at both the primary and elementary levels.

**Gerard (Gerry) Leonard** trains elementary teachers at the Montessori Training Center Northeast (MTCNE) in Hartford, CT. He is AMI trained in Dublin at the primary and elementary levels. He has taught for over thirty years in primary, elementary, and adolescent classrooms, is an officer of the NAMTA board, and serves on the advisory board of MTCNE.

**Uma Ramani** is a director of training at the Montessori Institute of North Texas (MINT) in Dallas, Texas. She holds AMI diplomas at the primary and elementary levels and master’s degrees in sociology and in textiles. She enjoys consulting with schools, coaching, and mentoring guides in their classroom practice. She has several years experience working in private, public, and charter schools in the US. She enjoys bringing Montessori principles to parents and to adults working with children in non-Montessori settings.

**Jennifer Shields** is a primary teacher trainer at the Washington Montessori Institute at Loyola University (MD). She has twenty-five years of Montessori experience working as an assistant, teacher, and trainer. Jennifer earned her BA in English from Georgetown University and her M.Ed. in Montessori education from Cleveland State University and is also assistants to infancy trained. Currently, in addition to teacher training, Jennifer enjoys consulting, examining, and coaching.
Sheraton Columbia Town Center
10207 Wincopin Circle
Columbia, MD 21044

Reservations: 1-888-627-8318 or 1-410-730-3900

Centrally located between Baltimore’s Inner Harbor and Washington D.C., the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel has everything you need for work and for play. This hotel is situated on 12 wooded acres in Columbia, MD, overlooking the serene Lake Kittamaquandi.

Register at the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel by September 22 to receive the NAMTA room rate of: Lodge—$126 or Tower—$146. Please mention NAMTA when making your reservation.

Transportation

The closest airport to the Sheraton Columbia Hotel is Baltimore/Washington International (BWI).

Transportation options from the airport to the hotel include airport shuttle or taxi. For airport shuttle reservations, please call 1-800-776-0323 or visit www.theairportshuttle.com. The average cost is $30 each way.

Taxi service from BWI ranges between $50-$65.

Driving directions can be found on the hotel website: http://www.sheratoncolumbia.com
Registration

Register by September 22, 2016 for early registration rates!

NAMTA member tuition fee: $300 ( $315 after September 22)
Non-member tuition fee: $360 ( $375 after September 22)

Tuition fees include Friday and Saturday luncheons. Choose one:

- Non-Vegetarian
- Vegetarian

Friday workshops (Choose one):
- A. Theory into Practice
- B. Finding Meaning
- C. Engaging Elementary

Saturday workshops (Choose one):
- D. Well-Being
- E. Attention through Movement
- F. Concentration in Elementary

Name: _________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: _________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State/Province: _______ Postal Code: _______
Country: ___________ Name of Your School: __________________________

Payment options:

- Check or money order enclosed
  Must be payable in U.S. currency and drawn on a U.S. bank.
- Visa; MasterCard; Am Ex; Discover
  Please indicate credit card type and fill out the information below.

Card Number: _______________________________________________________
Name on Card: _____________________________________________________
Expiration Date: _______ 3- or 4-digit Authorization Code: _____________
(month/year) (found on front of AmEx, back of other cards)
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Not a NAMTA member? It’s more economical to purchase a registration and a membership than it is to pay the non-member rate. Become a NAMTA member today by sending in the membership form along with your registration and enjoy all the benefits of NAMTA membership. Join NAMTA and register for the conference online at www.montessori-namta.org!
2016-2017 Individual NAMTA Membership

Use this form to join NAMTA or renew your membership. Membership is for individuals only. No schools, please. Please furnish your home mailing address. You must provide an e-mail address to receive The NAMTA Bulletin and member mailings.

- U.S. Resident.................................................................................................................. ☐ $50
- Outside U.S. ..................................................................................................................... ☐ $60
- Lifetime............................................................................................................................ ☐ $600
- The NAMTA Directory (not included with membership)............. ☐ $18
- The NAMTA Montessori Archive (see description below) ........... ☐ $10
- Total Enclosed ................................................................................................................... $______

- Return by January 15, 2017, to have your name listed in The NAMTA Directory.
  ☐ Check here if you do not want your name listed.
- The NAMTA Montessori Archive is a searchable database of Montessori articles. Copies of articles are available for a fee.

Last Name: ___________________________ First Name:______________________________
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City: ___________________________________________________________________________
State/Province: __________ Postal Code: _______ Country: ______________
Name of Your School: _______________________________________________________________
Phone : ___________________________ Email: ________________________________

If you are a new member, please list your Montessori training information:
Location: ___________________________________________ Affiliation: _______ 
Date of Diploma: ___________________________ Level of Course: _______
Current Montessori Status: ☐ Administrator ☐ Guide (Teacher) ☐ Trainee 
☐ Assistant ☐ Parent ☐ Program Coordinator

Payment Options
☐ Check or money order: payable in U.S. currency and drawn on a U.S. bank.
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover (complete the information below)
Card Number: _____________________________________________________________________
Name on Card: ___________________________________________________________________
Expiration Date: ___________ 3- or 4-digit Authorization Code: ___________
(month/year) (found on front of AmEx, back of other cards)
Address:  _______________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________________________ State/Province: ___________
Postal Code: __________________________________ Country: ________________
Make your hotel reservations by **September 22, 2016** to receive the NAMTA conference rate!

A NAMTA Event in Columbia, MD, October 6-9, 2016