Building the Inclusive Montessori Community

A NAMTA conference featuring
Joachim Dattke, Shannon Helfrich, Barbara Luborsky, Cindy Maschoff,
Mubina Meghji, Catherine Nehring, Jennifer O’Toole,
Pam Shanks, Martha Urioste
and more!

Phoenix, Arizona • January 16-19, 2014
Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa
Inclusion has always been Montessori’s operating principle. The classroom’s three-year age span and independent work environment allows children of different ages and abilities to learn and teach each other. Nearly half of a century ago in Munich, Germany, Mario Montessori worked closely with renowned pediatrician, Dr. Theodor Hellbrügge, on the Aktion Sonnenschein project (Project Sunshine), a model inclusive Montessori school. Project Sunshine was, and is, an immense vision that seeks to combine a full array of medical and therapeutic services with a fully inclusive Montessori school. Dr. Joachim Dattke, professor at the Theodor Hellbrügge Foundation, will discuss the supports and protection that children with disabilities can be offered in a Montessori environment. Raintree Montessori School in Lawrence, Kansas, is an exemplary inclusive environment, and its program coordinator will bring an additional framework that integrates therapeutic aims into a Montessori environment. Other topics include an insider’s view of Asperger’s, effective strategies for teaching English language learners, adapting math and language lessons, incorporating occupational therapy into schools, welcoming children with disabilities into the classroom, and more.

Thursday, January 16, 2014
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. • Registration

Friday, January 17, 2014
8:00 – 9:00 a.m. • Registration
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**Relentless Positivity, See-Through Eggshells, and a Botanical Puzzle or Two: The Contagious Awesomeness of Asperkids**

*Jennifer O’Toole*

This presentation approaches Asperger’s Syndrome without stigma, judgment, or foreboding. With humor and compassion, this first-hand life

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Building the Inclusive Montessori Community

experience of an Aspie, teacher, social worker, and Asperkid parent (x3) is an insider look at anxiety, the power of special interests, learning detours, and, above all, real empowerment through effective strategies, constant respect, and infectious, relentless hope. Keeping with Dr. Montessori’s directive to “follow the child,” Jennifer describes effective lessons that reach brilliant young minds and enrich all of us.

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Question and Answer with Jennifer O’Toole

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.
Break

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
How Spoken Language Can Prevent Challenges with Reading and Writing

Shannon Helfrich

Spoken language from pre-birth is the best predictor of reading and writing success. Research has shown that four-year-old children from poor families have heard thirty million fewer words than children from homes with professional parents. We will discuss ways to reach the low-income families of very young children who are most at risk for language delays. There will be time allowed for questions and answers.

11:45 a.m. – Noon
Book Signing with Shannon Helfrich and Jennifer O’Toole

Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Lunch
1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (break at 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.)

Afternoon Workshops (Choose one)

A. English Language Learners in Montessori Classrooms
   
   Martha Urioste and Mubina Meghji
   
   Martha Urioste, former principal of Mitchell Montessori Citywide Magnet School in Denver, speaks of her experiences at Mitchell, a multi-lingual school. Martha will describe the challenges of implementing Montessori in this environment where children were very successful in learning a second language. Mubina Meghji will demonstrate effective instructional methods including interactive strategies, reliable assessments, and a responsive environment for ELL students to learn a rich second language.

B. Take This Lesson and Tweak It: Making the Lesson Fit the Child, Not the Other Way Around
   
   Jennifer O’Toole
   
   All children enter the world teeming with curiosity and wonder. No child is born lazy or apathetic, careless or afraid. Children want to learn and be happy. But some children learn that asking questions can get them in trouble, or that trying something different labels them as weird. Jennifer talks about the little moments, the little lessons, and the little breakthroughs because it is the little things in life that make the biggest differences.

C. Adapting for Poor Visual Memory in Language and Math
   
   Pam Shanks
   
   Every Montessori guide has worked with children who experience difficulty remembering numeral names or the sounds of letters. Pam’s expertise in special education combined with her Montessori training has led to the development of adaptations and extensions for Montessori materials that support numeral and letter recall in long-term memory.
Saturday, January 18, 2014

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
**The Montessori Model for Inclusion**  
*Joachim Dattke*

Professor Dattke brings the work of the Theodor Hellbrügge Foundation and the International Academy for Developmental Rehabilitation to Phoenix. There is a unique chance for children with congenital disorders to avoid the fate of lifelong disability and to protect against exclusion by actively involving the social environment during early childhood.

The goal is to provide the children and their families with need-based networking and professional support. Dr. Dattke will show examples from the early history of Dr. Hellbruegge’s pioneering work that combined Montessori education and the work of Edouard Séguin into a medical pedagogy.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.
**Break**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
**What Does the Inclusive Montessori School Look Like?**  
*Pam Shanks*

Many children with different learning abilities are enrolled in Montessori classrooms across the nation. Raintree Montessori School in Lawrence, Kansas, is the best known inclusive Montessori school in the United States. Learn the specifics of inclusion including a decision framework for classroom placement, how to support staff who welcome children with delays or disabilities into classrooms, what IEP goals and benchmarks are and how they can be translated into Montessori activities, and if or when to add extra support staff.

11:30 a.m. – Noon
**Question and Answer with Joachim Dattke and Pam Shanks**

January 16-19, 2014 • Registration deadline is January 2, 2014
A NAMTA Conference in Phoenix, Arizona

Saturday, January 18, 2014, continued

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (break at 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.)

Afternoon Workshops (Choose one)

D. Montessori and Occupational Therapy: Kindred Spirits Make a Recipe for Success
Barbara Luborsky
Montessori theory and practice have a deep affinity with occupational therapy. Both share an emphasis on observation and the use of the environment from a diagnostic and therapeutic medical perspective. The collaboration between the Montessori teacher and the occupational therapist can be key to the successful inclusion of many children.

E. The Critical Importance of Communicating with the Family for the Child’s Best Chance for Success
Joachim Dattke and Catherine Nehring
When educators tell a parent that their child has a disability, a holistic approach to the needs of the family is a key part of a therapeutic intervention. Photos and examples from Aktion Sonnenschein will inspire and challenge teachers to consider a more inclusive classroom.

F. The Challenge of Integrating Montessori into an Assessment-Oriented Environment in Public/Charter Schools
Panel: Cindy Maschoff, Sherri Sampson, and Staff from Keystone Montessori Charter School
A public/charter school has different expectations and testing pressures than a private Montessori school. Yet, this option reaches more children and expands Montessori into new markets. This breakout session will focus on how to keep true to Montessori standards while meeting state standards.
Implementing Your Inclusive School Community

Panel of Conference Speakers

Panelists and participants discuss various ways to introduce new practices for inclusion.

Conference Speakers

**Joachim Dattke** is a professor at the Kazan State Medical Academy in Russia and a professor at the Theodor Hellbrügge Foundation. Since 1998 Dr. Dattke has served as head of the International Courses for Montessori Education and Montessori Special Education of the International Academy for Developing Rehabilitation for children ages three to six years and for ages six to twelve years. He holds an AMI elementary diploma from Washington Montessori Institute and completed a Montessori course at the German Academy for Developmental Rehabilitation in Munich.

**Shannon Helfrich** is an AMI teacher trainer, examiner, and consultant. She has served as an AMI examiner on training courses around the world. She is known throughout the United States as a practical and approachable consultant for teachers in the classroom and for administrators of Montessori schools. Shannon is the author of Montessori Learning in the 21st Century.

**Barbara Luborsky** is an occupational therapist in Montgomery and Frederick, Maryland, where she founded Way to Grow, a center for pediatric occupational and speech therapy. Barbara’s experience of growing up in a family where her father had a disability contributed to her training, career, and passion for her work. She works with children of all ages and has an active practice with local Montessori schools.

**Cindy Maschoff** has worked at Keystone Montessori for over seventeen years as the assistant head of school and special education director. She has a BA in elementary education and special education. Prior to working at Keystone, she worked in public schools for ten years in special education.
Mubina Meghji is a primary directress at Alief Montessori Community School (AMCS) in Houston, Texas where she has been teaching for over twelve years. AMCS is a non-profit public charter Montessori school that serves a diverse population of predominantly English language learners from age three through grade five. Mubina holds an AMI primary diploma from Montessori Institute of North Texas, Dallas. She has been teaching since 1997.

Catherine Murphy Nehring is the director of the Frederick Country Day Montessori & Arts School. She holds an AMI elementary diploma from Bergamo, Italy, an MA in education, and Maryland certification in elementary and special education. Catherine also holds special education training certificates in Orton-Gillingham tutoring for children with Dyslexia, the Dubard Association Method for children with hearing disabilities or aphasia, Montessori Applied To Children At Risk, Autism-A Montessori Approach, and Laubach Tutoring for English language learners.

Jennifer O’Toole is the winner of the 2012 Temple Grandin Award, a recipient of the Global and Regional Asperger Syndrome Partnership 2012 Distinguished Spectrumite Medal, an AuKids Speaker of the Year, and Godiva’s Woman of the Year. O’Toole was diagnosed as an Aspie in adulthood, is the mother of three Asperkids, the wife of an Aspie, and is the author of the Asperkids book series. With three children in a Montessori school, Jennifer has an appreciation of the methodology that has been effective with her children.

Sherri Sampson is the founder and head of school at Keystone Montessori. Sherri holds an AMI 3-6 diploma and has completed the NAMTA Adolescent Orientation. She founded the school in her home in 1995 with thirteen students based on the need in the Ahwatukee community and a desire for her own three children to attend. The school currently serves over 320 students ages eighteen months to fifteen years on a five-acre property.

Pam Shanks holds a Montessori primary diploma, an MA in special education, and Kansas licensing for early childhood, early childhood special education, and severe multiple disabilities. She teaches a primary class and coordinates the program of full inclusion at Raintree Montessori School (Lawrence, KS). She also works as a consultant, a clinical supervisor, and guest lecturer for the University of Kansas School of Education.

Martha Urioste serves as a consultant to numerous educational projects. She holds an AMI 0-3 diploma, an MA in Spanish literature, and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. Dr. Urioste was principal of Mitchell Elementary School in the late 1980s where she implemented a citywide Montessori magnet school. Dr. Urioste was also the administrator of Denison Montessori and a founder of Family Star, a national model for Montessori education for infants, toddlers, and primary children.
Building the Inclusive Montessori Community

Hotel

Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa
1011 W Holmes Ave
Mesa AZ 85210
Reservations: 1-800-544-5866

Register at the Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa by December 16, 2013 to receive the room rate of single/double - $129. Mention the letters MOT to receive the NAMTA conference rate.

Transportation Instructions from the Hotel Staff

From downtown Phoenix to our hotel in Mesa, Arizona: Take I-10 east toward Tucson. From I-10 exit US60 east. Continue 4.5 miles to Alma School Rd. Exit Alma School Rd and turn left at light. Turn right at the second stoplight onto Holmes Ave. Our hotel in Mesa, Arizona is located on the right.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (main airport): Take the 202 East from the Airport, to Loop 101 South. Proceed south to Superstition Freeway (US 60 East). Exit Alma School Road. Turn left. Turn right at the second stoplight (Holmes Avenue), hotel entrance is on your right. Distance from Hotel: 12 miles; approximate cost for taxi is $35.00 USD.

Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport: Depart S Sossaman Rd toward E Tahoe Ave. Bear left onto E Ray Rd. Turn right onto S Power Rd. Take ramp left for US-60 West / Superstition Fwy. At exit 178, follow signs for Alma School Rd. Turn right. Turn right onto Holmes Ave. Distance from Hotel: 12 miles; approximate cost for taxi is $45.00 USD.

Falcon Field: Exit airport and turn left onto McDowell. Turn right onto Higley to Highway 60. Proceed West on 60 to Alma School Road. Right onto Alma School, Right onto Holmes Avenue. Distance from Hotel: 13 miles; approximate cost for taxi is $35.00 USD.

Learn more at http://www.hiltonphoenixmesa.com/

January 16-19, 2014 • Registration deadline is January 2, 2014
A NAMTA Conference in Phoenix, Arizona

Registration

Register by January 2, 2014 for early registration rates!

NAMTA member tuition fee:  ❑ $300 (❑ $315 after January 2)
Non-member tuition fee:       ❑ $360 (❑ $375 after January 2)

Tuition fees include Friday and Saturday luncheons. Choose one:
❑ Non-Vegetarian  ❑ Vegetarian

Friday workshops (Choose one):
❑ A. English Language Learning
❑ B. Lessons Fit the Child
❑ C. Poor Visual Memory

Saturday workshops (Choose one):
❑ D. Occupational Therapy
❑ E. Family Communication
❑ F. Public/Charter Schools

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)
Address: ____________________________
Street Address where credit card bills are sent.
City: _____________________________ State/Province: _________
Postal Code: ______________________ Country: ________________

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!
2013-2014 Individual NAMTA Membership

Use this form to join NAMTA or renew your membership.

Please Indicate:  ❑ New Member  ❑ Renewing Member  ❑ New Address

Last Name: _____________________ First Name: _____________________

Membership is for individuals only. No schools, please.

 This information is used for our mailings. Please furnish your home mailing address.

Address: ______________________________________________________

City: _________________________________________________________

State/Province: _________ Postal Code: _______ Country:___________

Name of Your School: __________________________________________

Phone: __________________ Email: ______________________________

You must provide your complete and correct e-mail address to receive The NAMTA Bulletin and other member communications.

If you are a new member and are Montessori trained, please give your training information:

Location: ____________________________________________________

Affiliation: __________________________________________________

Date of Diploma: ______________________________________________

Level of Course: ______________________________________________

Current Montessori Status:

❑ Administrator  ❑ Guide (Teacher)
❑ Trainee  ❑ Assistant
❑ Montessori Parent  ❑ Program Coordinator

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)

Address: ______________________________________________________

Street Address where credit card bills are sent.

City: _________________________ State/Province: _____________

Postal Code: _______________________ Country: ________________

Membership Prices:

• U.S. Resident  ❑ $50
• Outside U.S.  ❑ $60
• Lifetime  ❑ $600
• NAMTA Directory  ❑ $18

(Not included with membership)

• NAMTA Online Bibliography*  ❑ $10

(Not included w/membership; requires e-mail address)

Total Enclosed $_____

Return by January 17, 2014, to have your name listed in the member section of The NAMTA Directory.

❑ Check here if you do not want your name listed.

Join NAMTA online at www.montessori-namta.org
Make your hotel reservations by December 16 to receive the NAMTA conference rate!