

MEAB Newsletter

Montessori Evaluation and Accreditation Board

Issue 5 May 2011

published three times a year for accredited schools



this issue

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Dear MEAB accredited schools and nurseries,

As we approach the final weeks of the academic year we have much to reflect on:

- significant growth in the number of schools applying for accreditation
- progression of the assessment process to a two-visit structure, which is helping to secure quality improvement
- the achievement of our assessors in nearing completion of their training to become Chartered Educational Assessors.

We have managed these developments through team effort and clarity of vision. It is now clear what MEAB can and does offer Montessori settings both in the UK and overseas and the cohesion amongst the body of accredited schools is becoming ever more apparent. Quality counts and so does commonality.

This shared vision has been communicated to parents who may be considering Montessori provision for their children. Parents deserve to be well-informed with regard to what they should look for. Over the last year much has been written for them in publications such as Primary Times and on parenting sites like Netmums and NCT, in order to raise their awareness of what they can expect when a school uses the name Montessori.

The body of settings now accredited spans 1,500+ pupils attending schools right across the spectrum from a school for 750 children caring and educating children from 12 months to 12 years of age in Bangalore to small, professional home-based provision in Devon. The commonality comes from a shared vision of what constitutes good Montessori practice and the willingness to continue the process of self-reflection and CPD. Montessori settings are now acknowledging that the accreditation process is a significant factor in helping them prepare for Ofsted inspections and many are attributing their outstanding outcomes to having been accredited and all that this involves.

In future, the Montessori St. Nicholas charity (which provides the financial backing for the MEAB scheme) will be looking to focus its support on MEAB accredited settings, a focus that will be shared by MCI and the MSA, adding to the cohesion amongst genuine Montessori providers.

This year, for the first time, we will celebrate the achievements of the accredited schools at the MSA annual conference to be held at Church House, Westminster on 18 June. If you have not booked, please make sure you do so, as this should be a valuable opportunity to reflect on your work with boys, and children from diverse cultures as well as challenge your skills when engaging in open ended conversations with children.

As we are approaching the re-accreditation of the schools that participated in the pilot scheme in 2008, we propose to hold the **first MEAB conference specifically targeted towards the owners and managers of MEAB accredited schools. It is planned for Monday 11 June 2012.** We would love to hear from all of you who manage and own settings what you would like from this day. We will of course focus on the EYFS changes and give a briefing about the reaccreditations. Please email Barbara Isaacs with your ideas at barbara@montessori.org.uk

Should you be looking for introductory Montessori training for your staff, the MCI five day workshop at the end of August may just do the trick. If you are considering employing someone who is in need of a refresher workshop, or would like to know more about working with babies and toddlers in Montessori settings see the MCI programme for summer workshops.

We very much hope to see you at the Conference and wish you a fruitful summer.

Michele Dows-Miller

Barbara Isaacs

May 2011

Montessori Practice

Montessori Practice – update on Montessori qualifications.

I am aware that many of you are concerned about the current publicity regarding the Montessori qualifications and therefore have decided to devote this column in the e-bulletin to the topic.

Firstly I must reassure everyone that the current qualifications on the CWDC list are not under threat, nor are the students undertaking qualifications presently. The concern is about what qualifications will be offered in the future.

As you may be aware from the recommendations of the Tickell review, the government continues to be committed to the professionalization of the early years workforce. They continue to support the commitment to settings being led by a degree level qualified professional. I would urge those of you who have not made a commitment to further study to seriously consider it.

Dame Tickell's statement that there is a need for a sound early years qualification such as the NNEB, should bode well for the Montessori level 4 qualification. At the time of writing we are still waiting to finalise a date for a meeting with the CWDC to have their response to our request to recognise the Montessori qualifications in their own right. Please watch the Montessori website for news about the qualification. As soon as we have any news we will issue a statement.

Speaking of qualifications, should you be looking for an introductory Montessori training for your staff, the MCI five day workshop at the end of August may just do the trick. If you are considering employing someone who is in need of a refresher workshop, or would like to know more about working with babies and toddlers in Montessori settings see the MCI programme for summer workshops in the training directory posted to you in the last couple of months or on our website www.montessori.org.uk searching under: Teacher training – Distance learning – Workshops

OTHER NEWS

Have you bought tickets to the MSA National Conference?

Tickets for the MSA National Conference on Saturday 18th June 2011 at the Church House Conference Centre are selling fast. The Thames boat trip is now **sold out** but you can still book your place to the conference. Hurry, the early bird discount runs until the 31st of May and as an MSA member you will receive a 10% discount. Book now and pay £40 instead of the standard price of £50 for members and £80 for non-members.

To find out more and book your place, visit <http://www.montessori.org.uk/msa/msa/conference>

Healthy Eating Publication

Do you have any healthy eating practice you'd like to share? Contribute to the Montessori healthy eating guide and share your delicious recipes.

This online publication aims to promote healthy eating at school and at home. We'd love to hear your nourishing eating stories and receive photos of children preparing tasty foods. Send these to kristine@montessori.org.uk

Montessori International magazine celebrates its 100th issue on July 1st at the Museum of Childhood

First published as the *Montessori Courier* in the 1980s, *Montessori International* has grown to a readership of over 20,000 individuals worldwide and is now also available digitally. Montessori has partnered with the Museum in sponsoring family learning rucksacks and Montessori workshops. The Museum offers the perfect venue to celebrate the past and future of what continues to be an inspirational and unique publication. If you'd like to come please email Sharron at centre@montessori.org.uk

Successful Accreditation

Claire Wheeldon has taken us through her MEAB experience on our Montessori blog. Read about Grasshopper Montessori's MEAB accreditation story at <http://blog.montessori.org.uk/grasshoppers-montessori-nursery-our-path-to-a>

99 MEAB Accredited Schools

Congratulations to our newly Accredited Schools:

Andrea's Montessori

10 Copthorne Avenue, London SW12 0JZ

Caterpillar Montessori Nursery School

The Green Hall & New Hall, St Albans Road, South Parade, Chiswick, W4 3LH

Colourbox Montessori School Ltd

Newmarket College, Exning Road, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 0EB

Drakes Montessori Childcare

19 Drakes Avenue, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 4AB

The interest in international accreditation is growing; watch this space for more news.

OTHER NEWS

Contact your MP

Following the MSA's lobbying efforts, two Early Day Motions have been tabled by Zac Goldsmith MP: 1483 and 1484. Ask your MP to sign the EDMs and support Montessori's cause. Go to <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/early-day-motions/> for a list of the EDMs. A template letter to send to your MP is available at the MSA office; please email kristine@montessori.org.uk if you would like to have a copy.

Tickell Review

Read <http://blog.montessori.org.uk/early-years-foundation-stage-to-be-radically> to get the main points of the recently released Tickell Review and the impact this has on our settings.

Find out what our MSA National Chairman says about the Tickell Review at <http://blog.montessori.org.uk/martin-bradley-chairman-of-the-montessori-sch>

MEAB Featured Articles

Visit www.intered.uk.com to view MEAB Article in EYE magazine: Feb and April 2011

USEFUL LINKS

MEAB Accredited Schools

We're reaching our 100th accredited school this June 2011, visit http://www.montessori.org.uk/msa/accreditation/accreditation_reports to see a full list. This list is also available in *Montessori International* as a regular feature of the magazine.

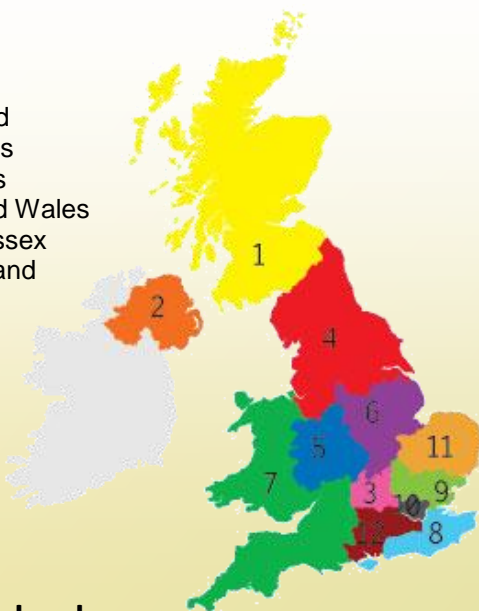
Training

Continue your professional development with MCI's summer workshop and seminars. More information is available at http://www.montessori.org.uk/mci_training

Learn from home with MCI's distance learning or continue to a higher level with the Foundation degree courses.

Summary

- 3 Region 1 - Scotland
- 5 Region 3 - Middlesex
- 5 Region 4 - North England
- 5 Region 5 - West Midlands
- 1 Region 6 - East Midlands
- 9 Region 7 - Southwest and Wales
- 9 Region 8 - Kent and Sussex
- 18 Region 9 - Eastern England
- 26 Region 10 - London
- 6 Region 11 - East Anglia
- 9 Region 12 - Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey
- 3 International



99 MEAB Accredited Schools

NES 

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Upcoming Events

- 21 May R9 – Understanding Dyslexia and Dyspraxia
**18 June MSA Annual National Conference 2011,
Church House, Westminster**
1st July 100th issue of Montessori International magazine
celebration, V&A Museum of Childhood

These events are now promoted at the Montessori UK facebook page.
Please 'like' our Montessori page at
<http://www.facebook.com/montessoriUK> to join.

For more information on Regional Events and for contact details of
your MSA Regional Chair, visit
http://www.montessori.org.uk/msa/msa/msa_regions

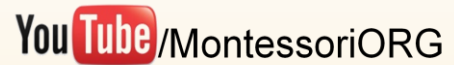
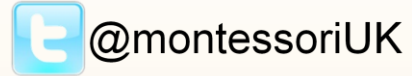
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To share your stories, news, photos and films, please email Amanda on
a.gilchrist@montessori.org.uk

USEFUL LINKS

Recruiting Staff

Browse Montessori Job vacancies at
<http://www.montessori.org.uk/magazine-and-jobs/jobs>. You can place a job advert in the *Montessori International* magazine, Montessori UK website or on MCI notice boards by contacting Stephanie on 020 7493 8300.

Montessori Books

Add more Montessori books to your collection, purchase new items from the shop. Visit
<http://shop.montessori.org.uk/> and check out special discounts this spring.

MEAB

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