

NATIONAL CENTER for MONTESSORI in the PUBLIC SECTOR

DC Montessori Teacher Residency Program 2016-2017 *Professional Development Schedule*

Date	Topic	Time	Host	Facilitator
Aug 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Graciously Together (Primary) Strong Community & the Elementary Child (Elementary) 	8:30-11:45	LAMB	WMI WMI
Aug 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring What Matters: The DERS, MEFS & Teacher Appraisal 	1:00-4:00	Breakthrough	NCMPS
Sept 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following all the Children: RTI Montessori Style 	12:00-4:00	Lee	NCMPS
Oct 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DERS/MEFS Training ❖ 	8:30-4:30	Lee	NCMPS
Oct 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Science & Art of Spoken Language (Primary Teachers) Effective Communication with the Young Child (Primary Assistants) 	8:30-3:00	Breakthrough	WMI WMI
Nov 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Study Continued 	1:00-4:00	Lee	NCMPS
Jan 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “How am I doing?” (Primary Teachers) Freedom & Discipline: A Delicate Balance (Primary Assistants) Reflecting on Our Practice (Elementary) 	1:00-4:00	Lee	WMI WMI WMI
Feb 17	• Aesthetic Development & Visual Thinking – Not just about the Arts ❖	8:30-3:00	NMWA	NCMPS
Feb 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montessori Classroom Management 	12:00-3:00	Shining Stars	NCMPS
Mar 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics TBD 	1:00-4:00	TBD	WMI
April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring What Matters Continued – Documenting Growth 	1:00-4:00	TBD	NCMPS

❖ = open to the public with a charge for schools outside the Residency

Recurring Events

- Quarterly coaching visits with Elizabeth Slade
- Monthly coordination visits with Katie Brown

Workshop Descriptions

Measuring What Matters: The DERS, MEFS, and Teacher Appraisal

For: Everyone

Assessment is an increasing concern of all educators. Public Montessori schools face special challenges related to the demand to measure results that often do not match the goals and outcomes of Montessori learning environments--in particular, the growth students show in essential and foundational social-emotional skills. In this workshop, we'll do a deep dive into capturing the impact of an education that emphasizes self-regulation, cognitive flexibility, initiation, collaboration, and risk-taking. We'll look both at what is involved in measuring these outcomes and what it takes to prepare environments to support these skills. We will also introduce a suite of assessments that schools can use to track outcomes related to Executive Functions and Social & Emotional Development, as well as literacy and numeracy. The assessment suite includes the Essential Elements Rubric, the Developmental Environmental Rating Scale, the Teacher Appraisal Instrument, and the Minnesota Executive Function Scale.

Following All the Children: RTI Montessori Style

For: Everyone

Public Montessori schools are called on to serve all children, and as the number of students with learning and behavioral difficulties rises, these public sector educators are confronted with the challenge of following all children with intelligence, practical expertise, and compassion. This workshop prepares public sector faculty and staff to meet this challenge. This workshop explores the growing array of early intervention models aimed toward addressing diverse learning and developmental needs. Known variously as Response to Intervention (RTI) and Tiered Instruction, these models aim to meet diverse learning needs prior to and, in many cases, in lieu of special education referrals. This workshop reviews Montessori's natural and historic links with special education and presents an approach to RTI that is intentionally designed to make the most of the unique properties of the prepared environment. Participants will learn a system for building a child-centered professional culture that revolves around meeting the needs of all children, resolving difficulties early, and using a wide range of data to support student development.

DERS/MEFS Training

For: Everyone

The Developmental Environmental Rating Scale (DERS) and Minnesota Executive Function Scale (MEFS) are companion tools for developmental and Montessori classrooms. The DERS is a classroom observation tool for continuous improvement, while the MEFS is a measure of executive function for young children. This one-day training grounds the certification process within a meaningful exploration of focused observation. The 8-hour

Revised 12/30/16

session will be led by the NCMPS DERS team, featuring Dr. Steve Hughes, PhD, ABPdN., a pediatric neuropsychologist and Chair of the Association Montessori Internationale Global Research Committee. At the end of the day, participants will be certified to administer both the DERS and the MEFS.

The Science & Art of Spoken Language

For: Primary Guides

Our objective will be to examine the significance of a rich oral language experience as a means for the development of the intelligence and effective communication. We will explore the importance of spoken language for the overall development of the young child. In this workshop, we will also practice techniques for positive language, rich language experiences, song, handicapping, conversation, true story telling. We will trace the growth of spoken language into writing and reading.

Effective Communication with the Young Child

For: Primary Assistants

Young children have a passion to express the thoughts and emotions that come and go quickly in their ever-active lives. How can we help support them in conveying these in a satisfying way? And, how can we assist them towards developing the art of listening? Join Janet McDonnell as we delve into the world of talking with children in the Primary environment.

Child Study, Continued

For: Everyone

This workshop is a continuation of “Following All the Children: RTI, Montessori Style.” We will revisit and refine our understanding of the child study process.

How Am I Doing?

For: Primary Guides

The new year is the perfect time to take stock of your role as guide in the primary community. We will look at ways to assess your current experience and consider plans for implementing effective practice for the future. We will establish tools for the ongoing self-reflection that is at the heart of our work.

Freedom & Discipline: A Delicate Balance

Revised 12/30/16

For: Primary Assistants

Our learning objective will be to examine the pedagogical underpinnings of offering appropriate freedom to children. To explore the challenges of maintaining the optimal amount of freedom within healthy limits. We will delve into Montessori's unique concepts of inner freedom and inner discipline in this workshop. We will explore the essential freedoms in a Montessori environment and pinpoint the appropriate limits that must accompany them. We will describe the experiences that lead to responsibility, inner discipline, and development of the will in the young child. We will do role plays and coaching that reflect real life classroom situations.

Reflecting on Our Practice: Are We Accomplishing Our Role?

For: Elementary

Adults in a Montessori environment have an important role to play. In order to accomplish this, we must be keen observers of ourselves, reflecting on our own practice in the classroom. This workshop will offer tools to support you in this reflection. We will refine our knowledge of the role of the adult so that it is something we can accomplish daily in our work in the classroom. We know that observation is a key component of our work. But we also know it can be difficult to make time to observe the children each day. This workshop will provide strategies and practical systems for observation to ensure you accomplish this important task on a regular basis, allowing you to use these observations to support your lesson planning. When we sit to do our planning each week, it is easy to fall into a pattern that fails to serve each child in her self-construction. We will break out of a mechanical lesson-planning routine and determine practical methods for planning in response to our observations and of the needs and interests of each individual child.

Montessori Classroom Management

For: Everyone

In this workshop, we will review the basic tenets of classroom management in a Montessori environment. What supports and structures can we provide to create an optimal learning environment? What classroom procedures do we have in place? In addition to these classroom-level strategies, we will discuss how to troubleshoot when problems arise. We will also discuss how to link our classroom management strategies to child study.

Measuring What Matters, Continued: Documenting Growth

For: Everyone

This workshop is a continuation of "Measuring What Matters: The DERS, MEFS, and Teacher Appraisal." We will reflect on how we have used these instruments to improve our practice and document student growth.

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