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**AMI MONTESSORI TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM TO BE OFFERED ON SATURDAYS IN IRVINE, STARTING FEBRUARY 2013**

IRVINE, California, January 9, 2013 – Increasing interest among Orange County residents in the Montessori method of education for early childhood has led to a historic event. For the first time, an [Association Montessori Internationale \(AMI\)](#) teacher training program will be offered in Orange County, California!

AMI is the gold standard in Montessori teacher training, the organization founded by Dr. Maria Montessori herself to preserve the integrity of her life's work after her death. This rigorous program is typically offered over the course of a year, and includes an in-depth study of Montessori theory, the science of child development, extensive curriculum work, practical work with each and every specially-designed Montessori material, practical class observations and student teaching, and a rigorous oral and written examination process at the end. Each teacher self-authors and hand-illustrates a set of "albums" that become her most treasured resource in her career as a Montessori teacher.

Until now, Orange County educators and residents interested in accessing an AMI training program have had to commute to the [Montessori Institute of San Diego \(MISD\)](#), in La Jolla, in order to attend the course. But now, increasing interest within Orange County has prompted MISD to pilot a course in Irvine. Even more exciting, the course will run **on Saturdays, from February 9, 2013 to July 26, 2014**. Not only does the Irvine location allow Orange County residents to attend without the long commute, but the Saturday scheduling also allows working professionals to attend the program without losing income.

"As the only AMI training center in the State of California that offers certification from birth to age three, we feel a great responsibility to extend our support beyond our local community to the schools in Orange County and surrounding areas. Just one well-trained teacher can have a tremendous impact on the quality of care that very young children are receiving at any given school," says Sharon Dubovoy Fastlicht, [Executive Director of MISD](#).

"This offering has created ripples of excitement among our staff," says Ray Girn, CEO of [LePort Schools](#), a Montessori school for infancy through 8th grade, with campuses in Irvine and Huntington Beach. "We will be providing financial sponsorship for several of our staff members to attend this program and earn an AMI Montessori Diploma. All of us have been thrilled to learn that this program is coming to Orange County, and we are doing everything in our power to support it. We believe it signifies the increasing spread of interest in the Montessori method, a method that is at the heart of our mission in education."

The course offered will be [AMI's "Assistants to Infancy" course](#), which focuses on children **from birth to age three**.

**To learn more about the training program, or to apply, please visit: <http://misdami.org/montessori-teacher-training-california/>**



Starting in February, Orange County educators will be able to take [AMI teacher training, the gold standard in Montessori training](#), right here in Irvine. The Saturday course is ideal for working professionals, who can now attain a credential in parallel to working full-time.



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Aspiring Montessori teachers can [apply directly with the Montessori Institute of San Diego by downloading the application here](#). For application questions, please contact MISD at 858.535.0500, x101.