



Standards

For an AMI Montessori Classroom

	Assistants to Infancy (0 to 3 years)	Primary (3 to 6 years)	Elementary (6 to 9, 9 to 12, or 6 to 12 years)
AMI trained teacher*	1	1	1
Non-teaching assistants	1 per 5 children	1	1
Consultation visit at least once every three years	Yes	Yes	Yes
Complete set of Montessori materials from an AMI approved manufacturer	Yes	Yes	Yes
Children of a mixed three-year age group, including a well-balanced division of ages (<i>ages listed are approximate</i>)	Parent/Infant or <i>Nido</i> : 2 months to 12/15 months Toddler: 12/15 months to 3 years	3 to 6 years	6 to 9, 9 to 12, or 6 to 12 years
Classes with an appropriate number of children to ensure social development	10-12 children	28-35 children	28-35 children
Uninterrupted, prolonged morning work cycles	2 hours per day, 4 days per week	3 hours per day, 5 days per week	2-3 hours per day, 5 days per week**
Afternoon sessions	Not required	2-3 hours per day, 5 days a week	2-3 hours per day, 4 days per week**

* *Some schools are temporarily unable to meet this requirement. If a school is unable to meet this requirement, they may apply for Affiliated or Associated status. Please see reverse side for more information.*

**Elementary Work Periods

At the elementary level, prolonged uninterrupted work periods are required every morning and afternoon, with an exception being one afternoon a week which may be left free to accommodate additional subjects. In practical terms, what this means is that for each elementary class, one afternoon each week may be set aside for special subject such as foreign language or physical education. Out of a possible ten work periods per week, nine must be reserved for Montessori work. Other special subjects can be scheduled in such a way that there is still an uninterrupted work period.



Standards

For an AMI Montessori Classroom

Assistants to Infancy

Classes for very young children are offered in the following age groupings:

- Parent/Infant: 2 months to 12/15 months
- *Nido* (infant environment): 2 months to 12/15 months
- Toddler Community: 12/15 months (walking well) to 3 years

The Classroom

The classroom must be large enough to accommodate the number of children in the group, bearing in mind the space needed for activities of practical life and exercises with sensorial material at the 3-6 age level, such as those done on the floor. A general guideline is 40 sq. ft. per child. Information on how to set up a Montessori environment is given to all students in AMI teacher training courses.

The Children

The group of children is made up of mixed ages with a reasonable distribution of the three ages concerned (0-3, 3-6, 6-9, 9-12). This figure may be reached over a three-year period. For example, a new class begins with approximately 10 to 12 three-year-olds, and each year a new group of three-year-olds is added. Twenty-eight to thirty-five children are desirable in a Montessori classroom. Children should be allowed an uninterrupted amount of time to work. Extracurricular activities, such as physical education, music, foreign languages, and art, scheduled at fixed hours outside of the classroom, disrupt the children's individual rhythm of work and hinder the development of concentrated work, which is one of the key elements of normalization.

The Teacher

One head teacher with an AMI diploma for the appropriate age group will be in each class. Should local regulations make it necessary to have an aide, he/she should be a non-teaching aide and should assist the directress by making materials, supervising outdoor activities, and assisting with field trips or "going-out."

The Materials

Each classroom will have a complete set of materials. All the materials do not necessarily have to be on the shelves at one time, but must be readily available to the class should the need arise. Information on how to present the materials to children forms part of an AMI teacher training course.

Recognition

A school applying to become an **AMI-Montessori School** will be granted a recognition status based upon the training of their teachers. There are three different status levels offered, primarily determined by the percentage of AMI trained teachers and their compliance with the standards:

- **AMI Recognized**

There is an AMI trained teacher at the appropriate age level in every classroom.

- **AMI/USA Affiliated**

At least 80% of the classes are taught by an AMI trained teacher at the appropriate age level.

- **AMI/USA Associated/Public Schools**

At least 50% of the classes are taught by an AMI trained teacher and at least one must be teaching at the appropriate age level. Please note, most public schools apply for associated status since there is a special fee structure offered at this level. Many public schools exceed the minimum percentage.

Affiliated and associated schools are granted this status based on the fact that they are aspiring to become AMI recognized schools. These schools are given a grace period of up to three years in which to meet the requirements for AMI recognition.