

The activities of Maria Christina Schäf



Visit of the Montessori-Kindergarten

It may seem unusual when I start my daughter Maria Christina's activities in the Montessori area with the fact that she has already absorbed life in a Montessori Kindergarten prenatally. After her birth, it was not possible to come home to my private apartment, because the bilingual Montessori kindergarten is on the ground floor. As soon as the front door was opened, the children in the kindergarten were very happy and welcomed me with the baby. She lived with the Montessori Kindergarten from that day until she was 6 when she started school. She was very knowledgeable and has often given help to other children. After class at school, she continued to attend kindergarten every day because all the children were expecting her. She spoke to the children and listened to them very often.

Internship in the Montessori-Kindergarten

Finally Maria was able to come back to kindergarten every day. She did the internship that was part of the state teacher training.

When participating in various events, together with her parents, many contacts were made.

AMI General Meetings Amsterdam / Netherlands (Mario Montessori junior)
AMI Congress in Nara / Japan (Pater Luhmer, University of Tokyo)
Montessori Institute Atlanta USA (Lilian Bryan, AMI Trainer)
Moscow / Russia (Konstantin Soumnitelny, Montessori Center Moscow).



*AMI General Meeting in Amsterdam
left: Hildegard Solzbacher is in the
background*

*Right:
with
Mario
Montessori
junior*



*Left: 1992 in Moscow with the 1st Russian student in the AMI course in Munich: Marina Sorokova with husband,
Right: 1993 in St. Petersburg, Konstantin Soumnitelny, Director of the Moscow Montessori Center*



Nara, Japan



Tokio, Japan



Maria had many contacts with various specialist disciplines. She was allowed to listen to meetings.

Prof. Theodor Hellbrügge, Pediatric Medicine, Germany

Prof. Valdis Folkmanis, Pediatric Medicine and AMI Special Education Diploma, Latvia

Prof. Nelson Annunciato, Neurology, Brazil

Prof. Václav Vojta, Child neurologist, Czech Republic, Founder of Vojta Therapy

PhDr. Jaroslav Sturma. Psychology, Czech Republic

Prof. Kurt Aurin, Pedagogy, Germany

Lore Anderlik, founder of Montessori therapy under the guidance of Prof. Hellbrügge

Gertrud Orff, founder of Music Therapy in collaboration with Prof. Hellbrügge.

Contact with people who attended the course with Maria Montessori:

Margaret Aurin, Germany

Margot Waltuch, USA

Ann Heijenck; Netherlands

Contact with various AMI Montessori Trainers:

Hildegard Solzbacher, USA

Patricia Spinelli, France

Marja Leena Tyrvaainen, Finland

Ulla Wikefeldt, Sweden

Lilian Bryan, Atlanta USA



*Workshop Practical Life with
Margot Waltuch and Prof. Hellbrügge*

A new organization had to be founded to sponsor the Montessori Kindergarten so that the Bavarian state and the city of Munich could give grants.

The kindergarten was run privately for almost 20 years without subsidies because it was not "normal" to work bilingually.





“Montessori Internationales Ausbildungszentrum e.V.” (MIA) from 1998 for the sponsorship of the Montessori-Kindergarten and the AMI Course.

- Maria contributed to the establishment, which became necessary because I ended my collaboration with Aktion Sonnenschein on the advice of Renilde Montessori and had to found a new organization in order to be able to continue giving AMI courses. The kindergarten was assigned to this organization and the course was also added.
- Maria took over the preparation of the room. The course was initially held in the kindergarten rooms. At the age of 12 she listened to every event in this first course. Unfortunately I didn't let her take the exam because I thought she was too young!
- During this time, Maria attended the course again at the age of 20/21 years, fulfilled all the requirements and in 2007 she received the AMI diploma for 3 -6 years.
- She helped prepare the documents for the written and oral exams.
- From this point on, she worked on the exam as a “child” / assistant / witness or liason person. At this time she also worked with Hilla Patel as an examiner and got to know various AMI External Examiners. Hilla recommended Maria to sign up for trainer training. Unfortunately, she did not have a university degree. This requirement has now been clarified.
- She read and evaluated written examination papers under my guidance so that she knew which criteria I use as a basis for the assessment.

Under this organization, Peter Gebhardt-Seele, AMI Elementary Trainer, gave the first AMI teacher course in Munich in 1999, in the rooms of our kindergarten until we got the place at BMW. Maria helped with the organization again and, under the guidance of Peter Gebhardt-Seele, prepared the materials for the teacher’s course, both in the 1st and 2nd Elementary course.

In 2015 Maria took over the board of directors of the MIA association and the cooperation between the Kindergarten and the course were guaranteed.



Events of personal responsibility

- She was invited as a speaker at the Montessori Congress in Poznan / Poland, organized by the AMI Montessori Center.
- Graduation lecture in the AMI course after she became CEO under MIA.



Maria gives the final lecture, after she is chairwoman of the MIA, picture 2018



Even as a child, Maria has absorbed many situations

- She organized the International Montessori Conference in Pelham, initially in collaboration with me, then on her own responsibility.

Additional new contacts

Philip O'Brien, AMI President

Alexander Henny, Montessori Pierson Publishing Company

Silvana Montanaro, Medicine

Kay Baker, Elementary Trainer

Greg McDonald, Elementary Trainer

Jean Miller, Elementary Trainer

Baiba Krumins Grazzini, Elementary Trainer

Jenny Höglund, Elementary Trainer

Dr. Jaime Rosero-Maquilón, Berlin, Facharzt für Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie



Montessori Adult Education MAE GmbH January 2018 foundation

When the running of the AMI courses under the direction of MIA, a social organization, was no longer allowed by the state, Maria and her husband Stefan helped found this new organization: Montessori Adult Education MAE GmbH. Due to my unexpected hospital stay in 2018, she and her husband looked for a trainer “overnight” so that the new module course with 50 participants, in four languages, could be reorganized in 2 days. Since that time she has been able to represent me in my role as managing director with bank power of attorney and also answer questions from AMI and settle the situation.



Maria as an Examiner with Patricia Spinelli als AMI External Examiner, July 2020

I am delighted that Maria has decided to sign up for the AMI trainer training programme. I would like to thank the AMI team, but especially Maria and her family, that she was able to successfully complete this training programme at home and abroad at her own expense and is leading my work into the future with great commitment.

Maria Roth

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