

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015



*Swiss
Montessori
Centre*



Invitation 24 & 25 January 2015

Lynne LAWRENCE, Executive Director
Association Montessori Internationale

Lectures in Neuchâtel, Switzerland

On Sunday 25 January 2015



Geometric Cabinet: Preparation of the Hand for Writing

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

Programme Saturday 24 January 2015

- 16:00-16:30 Arrival with tea and refreshments
- 16:30-16:35 Opening by Elisabeth HOUWELING (page 14)
- 16:35-16:40 Philippa ROMIG, Co-President Montessori
Switzerland
- 16:40-16:45 Karin TRUTTMANN, Co-President Montessori
Switzerland
- 16:45-16:55 Alain BARBAL, Director of the Office for
Economic Promotion Neuchâtel (OPEN)
- 17:00-18:00 MONTESSORI Research:
- Solange DÉNERVAUD, Jiske de ALBUQUERQUE
Psy.D., Professor Dr. Edouard GENTAZ and
Professor Dr. Petra HÜPPI: *The impact of
prematurity on emotional and cognitive
functioning: how to enhance learning in children
born prematurely? Can a Montessori-like
intervention improve outcomes for those
children?* (page10)
- 18:00-19:30 Apéritif and Snacks

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

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Programme Sunday 25 January 2015

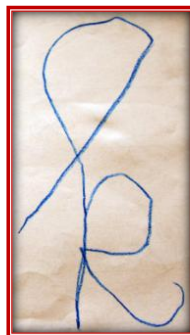
- 08:30-09:00 Arrival with tea and refreshments
- 09:00-10:00 Cordula ARANA, AMI 6-12 Auxiliary trainer:
Reading in Montessori (page 8)
- 10:00-12:00 Eva-Maria AHLQUIST PhD, AMI 6-12 Senior
Lecturer at Stockholm University: *Dimensions of
time perspective - from the child's own "time
line" to the Time Line of Life** (page 9)
- 12:00-13:45 Lunch in Hotel BEAULAC, Léopold-Robert 2
- 14:00-16:00 Lynne LAWRENCE, Executive Director of
Association Montessori Internationale:
The Preparation of the Hand for Writing (page 6)
- 16:00-16:05 Closure Elisabeth HOUWELING

*The Montessori Timelines conceived by Eva-Maria AHLQUIST
will be presented for sale during the Conference

Montessori materials will be sold during the Conference

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

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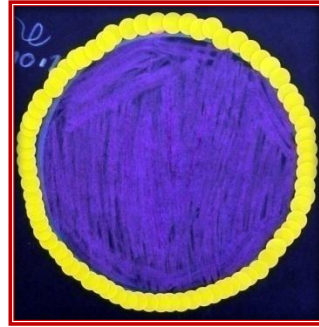
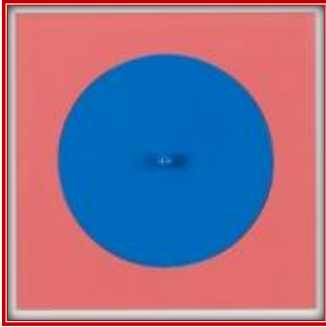


Introduction

We are very honoured that Lynne LAWRENCE, Executive Director Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), will visit us in order to talk about “The Preparation of the Hand for Writing”. The idea is to give the child the capacity of holding a pencil; gradually he acquires lightness of touch. When such a hand comes to write it can follow the will of the individual. This writing ability is the result of separate and careful preparation through drawing exercises with the Metal Insets (Ramachandran, 1998).

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH



The final result is an “explosion into spontaneous writing”, uniform in all the children, because they have performed the necessary movements by touching the same alphabet. Children take most interest in touching the letters between 4 and 5 years old. When we offer this material to a child of 6 years, he will not touch the letters often enough and he will write imperfectly – comparing to a child who began earlier with these exercises. When we have this material at hand we can help the psychic life of the child (Montessori, 1991). The first lesson in reading is placing a card with the name of an object on the related object. When we develop the reading process the child shall compose words and analyze whole sentences. Then the child will write his thoughts; this may become a delightful exercise (Montessori, 1973).

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH



Reading

Language in Cosmic Education represents Life that progresses according to a cosmic plan. The purpose of life is to exercise influence and to achieve a definite aim upon the environment. Geology has long shown the close relation between life and earth. The cosmic tasks have been intelligently distributed among all the behavior which urges it irresistibly to some task which is useful for the community (Montessori, 1989). Cultural education is a study that needs to be carried out in schools. It must take its departure and spread from one centre, the cosmic plan of creation. Astronomy, geography, geology, biology, physics, chemistry are but details of one whole (Montessori, 1997).

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

The main speakers of the Conference

1. Lynne LAWRENCE



Lynne Lawrence is the Executive Director of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) since June 2008, and prior to this held the position of AMI General Secretary ad-interim (2007) and was a member of the AMI Board.

Her background in Montessori education spans more than thirty-five years. Before taking up her current position Lynne was Director of Training at the Maria Montessori Training Organisation (MMTO), in London, now known as the Maria Montessori Institute.

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

Her responsibilities at the training centre were combined with that of Head of School at MMTO/MMI, overseeing 5 Children's Houses and an Elementary school. Lynne followed her AMI training course in London in 1974, and went on to work at the training centre in Hampstead and whilst there coordinated the AMI 'Help the Children' projects in Kenya. Albeit in a different capacity, Lynne has continued her work in Kenya and Tanzania to the present day.

She is a passionate supporter of AMI's Édicateurs sans Frontières initiatives and instrumental in the innovative Corner of Hope project at a Kenyan Internally Displaced Persons camp.

In her role as AMI Executive Director, Lynne actively promotes AMI's involvement in Montessori educational projects in developing countries, alongside the many other areas of the association's work; this encompasses teacher training programmes at national and international level, as well as ancillary Montessori programmes, research and development, in cooperation with the AMI Board and committees.

Lynne is a fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), which for 250 years has been a cradle of enlightenment thinking and a force for social progress.

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

2. Cordula ARANA



Cordula Arana is an AMI Auxiliary Trainer at the Elementary Level and she is an Elementary school teacher. In addition to teaching, she works as an assistant at the Maria Montessori Institute, London in her "Training of Trainers" program. At other AMI courses she has worked and continues working as lecturer or examiner. She holds AMI diplomas for Assistants to Infancy, Primary and the Elementary Level. Since ten years she lives in Lucerne and teaches nine to twelve year olds at the "Montessori Schule Luzern" in Switzerland.

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

3. Eva-Maria AHLQUIST

Eva-Maria Ahlquist has PhD. Degrees issued on 23 November 2012 at the Stockholm University. Theses: *The lived space and*



conditions for learning. Creating meaning in the Montessori school's physical environment. She is from 2008 till present Lecturer in the Department of Education,

Stockholm University, after merging with the Institute of Education in Stockholm on 01-01-2008. From 1999 till present, she is responsible for the Supervision and development in primary schools. From 2012– till present she is the Course coordinator for a Master program. *The learning theory of Montessori Education*, Stockholm University, Department of Education. From 2014 till present she is Course coordinator for the course in the teacher education program. *Curriculum Studies II. To record and assess knowledge formation.* She is engaged as a lecturer at universities in Italy and Norway. From 1981–1982 she obtained an AMI Montessori teacher diploma for ages 6–12 in Bergamo, Italy.

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

4. RESEARCH

involving a
Montessori-like
intervention



Geneva University and Geneva University Hospitals

Solange DÉNERVAUD PhD candidate

Jiske de ALBUQUERQUE Psy.D.

Under the supervision of: **Professor Dr. Edouard GENTAZ** and **Professor Dr. Petra HÜPPI**

A Century ago Maria Montessori developed a great set of materials to teach children. She also described and documented a specific environment that fosters any child to its optimal cognitive, emotional and social development. Nowadays, neuroscientists have collected data on brain development that not only confirm Maria Montessori's observations, but also explain why this great learning environment supports at best the growing child. We will explain to you how both material and environment effect on cognitive and emotional competences, with an emphasis given on preterm children.

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

Solange DÉNERVAUD PhD candidate

After an AMI Montessori Diploma as well as 4 years of teaching experience (Ecole Montessori Vevey), observing children evolving in a Montessori environment was so fascinating that Solange decided to start a scientific career to better understand this process. After her EPFL Bioengineering Diploma, she started a PhD project to study the impact of the Montessori Method on the brain development.

Jiske de ALBUQUERQUE

Psy.D.

Jiske de Albuquerque is working as a clinical child and adolescent psychologist at the Centre de Consultations pour enfants adolescents familles (CCEAF) in Geneva. She also works at Geneva University Hospitals (HUG), where she contributes to a research project following the development of children born prematurely. She obtained her doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Lausanne in 2012 and is actually completing a postgraduate training in child and adolescent psychotherapy at the Universities of Zurich and Fribourg.



The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

Prof. Dr. Petra HÜPPI

Prof. Petra Hüppi, is a clinician in pediatrics. Since 1998 she runs the Child Development Unit and the Division of Development and Growth at the Department of Pediatrics, Geneva University Hospitals, Switzerland. Next to her clinical work, she is a full professor at the University of



Geneva and has international research activities with a visiting scientist position at Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA. She has directed numerous research projects both at Harvard Medical School and the University of Geneva, aimed at the better understanding of early human brain development. Her research has helped in a major way to understand the specific brain deficits found in prematurely born children, highly relevant for the cognitive and socio-emotional development of children and adolescents. Her international status is further documented through her various commitments in major scientific societies and organizations. Currently she serves as a Board of Trustee member of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) and is an elected

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

member of the National Research Council of both Switzerland and France. In order to join forces to study scientifically both the care and medical interventions on children's long-term development, she founded the European association for developmental care.

EADCare.<http://www.eadcare.org/site/fr/contact>.

Prof. Dr. Edouard GENTAZ



Dr. Edouard Gentaz is a Professor of Developmental Psychology in the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at the University of Geneva, Switzerland and Director of Research at the

CNRS Laboratory of Psychology and Neurocognition, Grenoble. His research is particularly focused on the development of sensori-motor and cognitive abilities in typical populations and in blind people. He is the author or co-author of more than 80 articles in refereed journals and several books.

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

5. Elisabeth

HOUWELING

Elisabeth Houweling is the director and owner of Swiss Montessori Centre (SMC) founded in April 2010. SMC is a leading institution at both national and international level. At the same time –in 2010– she became a distributor for Nienhuis Montessori materials in Switzerland. Elisabeth holds a Dutch Kindergarten Teacher Diploma (1964) as well as a Montessori Diploma for children ages 3 to 6 from the Municipality Training-College (1965), The Netherlands. Whilst travelling through the world and teaching in Children's Houses in Amsterdam (Netherlands), Mozambique (Africa) and in Honduras (Central America), she acquired invaluable teaching experience. In 1986 she founded the International Montessori School (IMS) of Neuchâtel, which she sold after 17 successful years in 2003. The IMS was a busy Montessori institution offering bilingual education (English and French) to children of ages 3 to 12. In 2004, Elisabeth Houweling decided to undertake a Psychology and Education Certificate – *Certificat Formation Permanente*– at the University of Neuchâtel which she completed in 2009.



The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

Neuchâtel

Random wanderings through Neuchâtel's Old Town show the golden beauty of the architecture, as well as the 140-odd street fountains. From the Place Pury alleys to the west bring you to Place des Halles, where a handful of cafés are located. The square itself is overlooked by fine Louis XIV architecture. A two-minute walk east, on Rue de l'Hôpital, is the grand 1790 Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall), designed by Louis XVI's chief architect Pierre-Adrien Paris. The highlights of the Old Town are on the very top of the hill. The Collégiale church, begun in 1185 and consecrated in 1276, is of early Gothic. Stairs from Rue du Château bring you up to the east end of the church. The entrance is crowned by a giant rose window of stained glass. Within the vaulted interior, the nave draws you along to the glowing transept, lit by a lantern tower, and the unique Cenotaph of the Counts of Neuchâtel on the north wall of the choir. The monument comprises 15 painted statues of various knights and ladies from Neuchâtel's past, framed by 15th-century arches and gables.

Beside the church is the imposing Château, still in use as the offices of the Neuchâtel Cantonal Government.

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

Hotels in Neuchâtel

Hotel Beaulac. Located at Neuchâtel's harbour, Hotel Beaulac is just a 2-minute walk from the historic city centre and the university. It houses a restaurant with a lakeshore terrace and a sushi bar. **2 minutes walking from Swiss Montessori Centre (SMC).**

Hôtel Des Arts. Only 200 metres from the lake and close to Neuchâtel's centre and the funicular (taking you to the railway station in 3 minutes), the Hotel des Arts is a convenient place to stay. **2 minutes walking from SMC.**

Auberg'inn. The Auberg'inn is situated in a protected 16th-century building in the heart of Neuchâtel, few minutes' walk from the lake and from many restaurants, bars and shops.

Hôtel Alpes & Lac. Overlooking Neuchâtel's rooftops or Lake Neuchâtel. It is opposite the Main Train Station. It offers comfortable rooms, free Wi-Fi and there is free parking available nearby.

Hotel La Maison du Prussien. A personally run hotel. The former 18th century brewery comprises ten beautiful guest rooms with much wood and natural stone, picturesque winter garden and sun terrace.

The Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

Swiss Montessori Centre



Grammar Symbols

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Montessori materials

20% discount – 10% on orders



Black Ribbon and Cursive Movable Letters

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Swiss Montessori Centre, Beaux Arts 11, Neuchâtel-CH

Enrolment form

info@swissmontessoricentre.ch

I enroll for the Montessori Days of Neuchâtel 2015

January 24 & 25, 2015

Conference fees CHF 120.- (Exclusive Sunday lunch
which will be reserved for all participants in Hotel Beaulac)

Name.....

Address.....

Enterprise.....

E-mail.....

Telephone.....

ALL LECTURES WILL BE HELD IN ENGLISH

**BANK ACCOUNT - ELISABETH HOUWELING-SWISS
MONTESSORI CENTRE: 0290-516021.01M, IBAN:
CH80 0029 0290 5160 2101 M - UBS
PLACE PURY 5, 2000 NEUCHÂTEL**