

**MONTESSORI
FLORIDA COALITION
2023**



**Montessori
Florida Coalition**

**FRIDAY TO SATURDAY,
JANUARY 27 - 28**

Miami, Florida

MONTESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



REKINDLING OUR MONTESSORI SPIRIT

As we all emerged from the pandemic, it was freeing to once again return to our lives as they were before COVID. We were able to return to our classrooms, use our hands-on Montessori materials, be together again and renew our relationships with our students and co-workers. We now have a renewed appreciation for everything that we lost over the last few years. We now celebrate all that has been returned to us. Our Montessori Spirit is rekindled; we are back in our classrooms and the light is shining brightly! Join us as we reconnect with each other and welcome a new year of Montessori inspiration.

MONTENESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 1

Friday, January 27, 2023
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER BEATRIZ MARTINEZ-PEÑALVER

"Happiness is a Skill that can be Learned"

Beatriz Martinez-Peñalver is a licensed psychotherapist with over 30 years of experience. Passionate about decreasing the current mental health crisis, she advocates to make emotional literacy an integral part of education combining self-discovery, positive psychology, cognitive-behavioral, and meditation for personal-growth. Science shows that happiness is a skill that can be learned, and according to Beatriz, we completely forgot to teach this fundamental class in schools.

Co-Founder of Healthy Connections (a community mental health center operating in Miami for the past 21 years), and author of *Triumph Steps: a Curriculum for All Schools and Universities*, an eight-step therapeutic framework helping children and adults gain dominion over their emotions.

Beatriz is married and has a daughter. She loves the outdoors, snow skiing, boating, and scuba diving.

In this workshop, you will:

- Learn that happiness is a skill that can be learned.
- Obtain emotional literacy techniques to transform your personal life and benefit your classroom.
- Learn self-regulation skills and strategies to create your desired life and positively impact the children you serve.
- Obtain crucial information about the emerging science of possibility. When understanding visualization, silence, and the thought-body connection, you can see what is truly possible.
- Learn the effortless techniques to overcome depression and anxiety, decrease suicides, find meaning, and much more.

MONTESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER JESSE MCCARTHY

"Montessori - Rekindling Our Fire"

Jesse McCarthy has been in education for nearly 20 years. He received his B.A. in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and his Montessori teacher's diploma for ages 2.5 to 6+ from Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). Through his career he's worked with thousands of children, teachers, and parents – as an elementary & junior-high school teacher, a Head of School for infants to 8th graders, an executive with a nationwide group of Montessori private schools, and a teacher-and-parent mentor. Jesse has spoken on early education and child development at Montessori schools across the globe, as well as at popular organizations in and outside of the Montessori community: from AMI/USA to Twitter. Jesse now heads [MontessoriEducation.com](https://www.MontessoriEducation.com) and hosts The Montessori Education Podcast.

"The child developing harmoniously and the adult improving himself at his side make a very exciting and attractive picture."

Maria Montessori, '

Education and Peace' In our early education world, we of course focus on aiding children. But what about us adults? In this keynote, we dive into how Montessori is actually a real-world philosophy for all ages. We'll discuss how Montessori is not only an "aid to life" for boys and girls to develop themselves into successful men and women, but also a way of life that can bring out the best in 'grownups', too. Given the challenges in our field over the last few years – and challenges is probably too light of a word – we will emphasize reigniting our passion for Montessori education, in principle and practice, to help turn otherwise

MONTESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



JESSICA BRIEL AND ZAIRE BOOKER

"Giving Children a Voice"

Target Audience: Infant/Toddler

The benefits of using Sign Language in the Infant Toddler Classroom.

Sign Language improves cognitive and emotional development in infants and toddlers as well as increases the rate of verbal development! Furthermore, effective signing shows you are able to communicate with the children in your classroom, as well as build their trust.



ELIZABETH WILLIS, PHD

"Intuitive Parent Teacher Conferences"

Target Audience: All

What do parents REALLY want to hear during parent teacher conferences?

What are we missing out on sharing with parents?

Are you drained after parent/teacher conferences?

How can we deliver more heart centered insights on our students with depth and accuracy?

These questions and more will be answered in the presentation, Intuitive Parent Teacher Conferences.

In this presentation you will learn how to access your intuitive sense when observing your students and how to deliver these observations so parents can really FEEL the depth of your connection with their child. Be ready to STEP out of the way you have been doing conferences and into a NEW paradigm of delivering potent observations and insights that energize you... instead of depleting your energy.

Maria Montessori was unique and impactful in this world because she followed her intuitive sense. This presentation will re-connect you with your own intuition to provide you your own unique way of sharing about your students.



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DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



GEOFFREY BISHOP

Lighting a Child's Inborn Sense of Wonder: Mobilizing Your School to Bring Nature Back to Children "

Target Audience: All

This workshop will present strategies for reconnecting children to nature. We will focus on how all activities in a child's life will be enhanced and supported by experiences in nature and the outdoors. We'll explore activities and curriculum ideas that reengage students with the natural world through art, creative writing, science observation, and alternatives to traditional play concepts, all using available natural space, whether urban or suburban or rural environments. . You'll leave with a revitalized understanding of the importance of nature in fostering students' ability to concentrate and be creative as well as their physical, social, and emotional well-being.



BEATRIZ MARTINEZ-PEÑALVER

The Two Most Influential Forces in a Child's Life"

Target Audience: All

In this workshop, you will:

- Learn that happiness is a skill that can be learned.
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- Learn self-regulation skills and strategies to create your desired life and positively impact the children you serve.
- Obtain crucial information about the emerging science of possibility. When understanding visualization, silence, and the thought-body connection, you can see what is truly possible.
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10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



ENLACE EN ESPAÑOL

**KAREN SIMON, TATIANA RODRIGUEZ APONTE,
VERONICA ALVAREZ DE PEREZ**

*"Música y movimiento como herramienta para asistir la
normalización y florecimiento del niño en el aula"*

Target Audience: Spanish Speaking Audience

En esta ponencia discutiremos y trabajaremos con herramientas que nos ayudarán a utilizar la música y el movimiento como estrategias para ayudar al niño a alcanzar la normalización en el.



MONTENESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2022



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



PAULA LILLARD PRESCHLACK

"Why Authenticity Matters and How We Achieve It"

Target Audience: All

In the first half of this workshop, Paula Lillard Preschlack will define what an authentic interpretation of Montessori entails and explain how Maria Montessori's approach benefits children because:

- Is a structure with inherent balance
- Is wholistic (ALL topics of life are present and interconnected)
- It spans birth to age 24 (continuity for a child's entire journey)
- It follows human development (the changes and stages of the four planes)
- It addresses the universal child
- It works to foster traits for succeeding and thriving in an uncertain world

Paula will show slides to demonstrate her points

In the second half of the workshop, Paula will help participants to reflect on their own preparation and practices, and discuss together how we can aim for the most effective practices in our classrooms and schools.

Please bring materials to take notes for yourself and wear comfortable clothes.

MONTESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



RAQUEL CONCEPCION, PHD

"Positive Behavioral Support in the Early Childhood Classroom"

Target Audience: All

This presentation provides the participants with an overview of positive behavioral supports that can be promptly implemented in the classroom. The supports presented are founded in the evidence-based interventions of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), and its modified version for the early childhood classroom, Teacher-Child Interaction Training (TCIT). PCIT and TCIT follow the principles of attachment and behavioral theories, providing parents and teachers with effective communication skills to grow children and students' positive relationships, and effectively use their attention to modify and support appropriate behavior in the classroom. Participants will also be afforded an opportunity to role-play these skills by interacting with each other to maximize their learning.



JAVIER GONZALEZ, PHD JORDANAÉ LINENKOHL, MS

"Let's Think! How to Ignite a Child's Curiosity in Montessori Education through Metacognition"

Target Audience: All



How can developing metacognitive abilities in young children be enhanced? What does the latest cognitive research inform us regarding metacognition and learning? Join us for an engaging session as we explore metacognitive awareness; growth mindset; learning to think/thinking to learn; reflective dialogue; and self-regulation. An early childhood case study in a Montessori setting will also be presented.

MONTESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



VALERIANA JEDRZEJCZYK, MS

"Tools for a Confident, Independent Child in Today's World of Technology"

Target Audience: All

The module will address the pros and cons of today's technology by addressing the effect on children on independence and confidence. The presenter will discuss tools to help teachers and parents create an environment to counter the effects of technology in our children. By doing so, these guidelines will invite the child to become more independent and confident.

ENLACE EN ESPAÑOL



NILDA TORRES

"Actividades de Arte y Manualidades para Infantes y Toddlers "

Target Audience: Infant/Toddler

This presentation will aim the Infant and Toddler Community with ideas on teaching these young Montessorians art and crafts. The participants will learn; When should be the right time to introduce Art? Which art activity should be introduced first? What materials should they need to set up the activity? How should they introduce the Art activity? Where should you start with bringing art into the classroom? We will have hands-on activities practicing my favorite ones..

MONTESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
3:05 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.



HELEN DEVERE, MA

"Connecting the Child to Nature"
Target Audience: Early Childhood

The traditional life science material sequence are shown in the power point presentation. Along with supplemental ideas to encourage more involvement and discovery by the children. To elicit excitement and enthusiasm from the children, who can expand upon ideas and questions from their interests. Art and Food Prep. are logical off-shoots of Science, relative to expressing what they experience and to planting, harvesting and preparing food. The craft materials shown at the end are examples of ways to engage the children with nature. A small handout covers parts of the presentation and offers ideas for leading children to new discoveries. "When the child is an active participant, s/he sees connectedness among all things in this world and often finds a lifetime interest."



CRISTINA VALENTE

"Frank Lloyd Wright in your Montessori Environment"
Target Audience: Infant/Toddler

Come and learn ways to bring Art, Math and Engineering concepts into your classroom environment through the eyes of the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. During this workshop you will learn and explore unique ways to naturally incorporate his works through Montessori materials. This workshop is hands on with multiple opportunities to explore the pedagogy of Frank Lloyd Wright and Montessori.

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DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
3:05 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.



LORENA TASKER

"Reviving the Sacred Feminine: Healing Past Wounds to Bring More Joy and Light into the Classroom"

Target Audience: ALL

The global pandemic was a perfect opportunity for Mother Earth to reset herself. At a global level, we now need human beings centered in their hearts to change what no longer serves us. At a personal level, the pandemic aftermath has been a period of reconstructing our lives based on paradigms that may be obsolete. Are we fully aware of what those paradigms are?

Healing is essential to this era's transition, and we cannot forget our emotional bodies. As Montessori Teachers, can we truly be humble and of service? Can we speak our truth with compassion? Can we perceive others with an understanding heart?

So many questions to reflect on. Please join me with an open mind and heart to rediscover your nurturing essence and revisit the meaning of community.

MONTESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
3:05 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.



HEIDY LILCHIN SIMON, MS MARIA GOYEN CASTILLO, MS

"Handwork in the Elementary Classroom: Essential Element of Cosmic Education"

Target Audience: Elementary

One of the key aims of Cosmic Education is to connect children to nature and give them an understanding of their environment. What if children could understand their surroundings by looking at their textiles? They would know that the clothes they wear, and all the textiles around them are made from the fibers of a plant or an animal that has been gathered or shorn, and spun on a thread that was then knit, and then cut and sew.

In this session we will discuss why handwork is an essential element of Cosmic Education. These points will be discussed:

- Handwork builds connection
- Handwork leads to gratitude
- Handwork brings inner peace
- Handwork builds resilience
- Handwork for Artistry
- Handwork for dexterity

Practical ways to implement handwork in your classroom will be shared. Come with a creative mind set!

ENLACE EN ESPAÑOL



MONICA GARGIULO-BENITEZ

"Divertiendonos con las extensiones del material sensorial"

Target Audience: Early Childhood

Esta sesion ofrecera ideas creativas de como utilizar el material sensorial para crear diferente extensiones.

MONTESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



JUDY DEMPSEY, MS

"We Didn't Start the Fire...But the Montessori Spirit Burns On"
Target Audience: All

We were all born with the spirit of life igniting the forces that move through all of us. Dr. Montessori recognized this spirit within us all and devoted her life to help children and her followers to ignite their passions for life and learning. Join this discussion about how powerful the Montessori spirit is, why it is necessary to recognize it and embrace it, and ways in which to help it to burn on in our lives and the lives of our students. Let's rekindle the fiery passion of our Montessori Spirit!



JAVIER GONZALEZ, PHD

"Restoring Order in Chaotic Times"
Target Audience: ALL

In these unprecedented times, how do we restore order in the lives of children as a vehicle for peace? Join us for an in-depth presentation as we examine the latest brain research on environmental influences (natural and prepared) that impact the developing child from infancy to adolescence. In particular, the role of the human hand as a tool to express one's thoughts, emotions, and intellect in Montessori education will be explored.

MONTENESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



KAREN SIMON

"Mitigating Social Injustice"

Target Audience: All

Seeking, finding and defining concrete ways to begin to mitigate the social injustice that exists in our society

- Work for the children, individual, small group, line time.
- Key words: diversity, inclusion, empathy, emotional intelligence, community-building
- Developing an asset-based perspective



NICOLE VITALE, MS, RD, LDN

Be the Change: A Teacher's Impact on Children's Nutrition Behaviors

Target Audience: ALL

Nicole's presentation will discuss the current status and implications of children's and teachers' eating behaviors as well as the impact teachers have on the development of their students' nutrition habits. This presentation will cover the various nutrition barriers teachers encounter and tips to overcome these obstacles to become healthy role models for their students.

MONTESSORI FLORIDA COALITION 2023



DAY 2

Saturday, January 28, 2023
4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

ENLACE EN ESPAÑOL

MONICA GILBERT, PHD

"Changing Defiance with Compassion and Science"
Target Audience: Early Childhood



Oftentimes staff and teachers are puzzled on how to treat certain defiant behaviors such as physical aggression, property destruction, "talk back", non-compliance etc. Even when they use a proven strategy it just does not seem to help with the behavior. It's frustrating and it can sometimes make the class seem chaotic. During this presentation you will learn proven tools based on Applied Behavior Analysis that will help you first identify the "WHY" which is why the behavior occurs and then learn interventions that can be used proactively (to deescalate or prevent behaviors) and interventions that will help decrease problematic behaviors. You will also learn how to prompt replacement behaviors that may help replace these maladaptive behaviors. This presentation will present videos, roleplays and a short Q and A at the end.

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