

MONTESSORI INDEPENDENT EDUCATOR PROGRAM

featuring the

Montessori Culture Certification

Fourth Session

Final with Souzzann Zink as Mentor

MCC

September - December 2019

Final Work Due by September 2020

MIEC

2019 - 2021

Final Work Due by September 2021

Course Guide

Montessori Independent Educator -

A New and Different Kind of Certification

Introduction and Frequently Asked Questions

INTRODUCTION

First, this is a new approach in its fourth, and final, session with me giving mentoring support personally. It is also the **only** way for those *new** to our programs to get all 8 modules of the original *Montessori for Everybody Complete Home Study Course*. This certification has been a huge success based on feedback from our graduates and the administrators in schools where they work. Though the program may be revamped with other highly qualified Montessori mentors giving the feedback, the *soonest* that would happen is 2021 – and Souzzann will never be personally involved with the participants after this session.

Second, we are committed to making sure this new certification adds to the quality of Montessori educator training now available. Part of that is being completely honest about what this is – and what it isn't. This is what I'm calling a "parallel certification." It is **not** the equivalent of residential or onsite diploma programs (AMI, AMS, other MACTE accredited programs, etc.) and we won't say it is. (It may include some onsite elements that only our affiliates outside North America will use, but I'm not going into those details here). This brief introduction is to let you know about the program version that is open to everyone: educators and homeschoolers in North America, Australia, and all the rest of our international community.

I see this program as a way to fill in gaps in the current online trainings available – including helping those who have attempted to self-train only through free online resources. (That includes followers of our *MFE TV* show. With all our international channels of distribution such as Roku, we've had over 150,000 viewers over the last 5 years.) Through my own training experiences, and over 12 years of participation in the online Montessori community, I've also come to the conclusion that some of these gaps are too common even in many accredited programs affiliated with well-respected Montessori organizations.

Third, it will also provide an entry level certification that can stand alone for Assistant Educators and homeschoolers and may lead committed professionals to continue their training. We encourage those who choose to work in schools to consider completing a program with wide international recognition (such as from a center affiliated with AMI – Association Montessori Internationale, founded by Maria Montessori) or one with MACTE accreditation that is well respected in the U.S. and many other countries. Many educators who started with our *Home Study Course* (or it's precursor starting in 1986) have done just that.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE EXPERIENCED

Montessori is a revolutionary philosophy. It creates transformation in its true and full form. If you seek the **heart of Montessori education**, and to bring the depths of that approach to benefit your children, consider what those who have done group training, online courses, and private mentoring with me have said about the experience:

"I'm just 20 minutes into Souzzann Zink's *Inner Preparation of the Adult*, and I've learned **more practical information in that 20 minutes** than I have in my last few months of researching! I was sharing with my husband last night as he looked over my notes, and even he is motivated to learn more!"
Bree Petty, *Southern Oregon*

**We are offering the program for a special price to those who purchased the Complete Course in the past. Because of the time required to give feedback to each trainee, and other administrative costs, we are not able to offer the program to past purchasers for no tuition.*

Online comment about the same Montessori course:

“Well...that was life changing.”

“Souzzann offered and continues to offer me the ability to view a master at work and life. Specifically, in working with children and as a dad, Souzzann has developed in me the opportunity to afford the child a space to feel safe, know that **one may fail in the moment** but ultimately will recover, be present in the company of the child and parent. In the absence of Souzzann in my life, as guide, I’m quite sure I would be the lesser educator, dad and person. I am, and will be forever, grateful to Souzzann.”

Shawn Crawford, Montessori educator and Outdoor Education Specialist, Utah

“I feel like the guidance I received in the first half hour alone was **worth \$10,000 or more. It's changing everything.** By following Souzzann's advice, **I felt the shift in my family almost immediately,** and some shifts were, in fact, immediate.

Souzzann is so gifted in what she does, . . . a gentle, yet powerful, guiding light for us parents who want to do our very best for our families. By helping us raise thoughtful, loving, engaged, respectful, responsible, and confident children, **the positive impact this can have can reach far and wide and last for generations to come. I am hopeful her message reaches as many parents as possible** .

Karen B., *New York*

“I realized a new sense of confidence. . . I had a plan for taking one concept and working on it for 2 weeks and then adding other parts. . . If you are interested in helping yourself or your children, **this is the best available.**”

Jolaine Skinner

“I was so impressed with what I found in the Practical Life set that I purchased the whole program. And I have not been disappointed. Every module is **jam packed with helpful information** and resources.

“Thank you so much, Souzzann, for your very kind and supportive way of giving feedback. As you can probably guess, I love reading them. . . I would truly love to spend my days blessing children's lives. . . I find your course to be **highly motivational** and helpful. . . It truly gave me the vision of how the Montessori approach can accomplish so many seemingly impossible things with young children.

“I appreciated that all of the assignments were designed to help me be ready to operate my own classroom. I didn't feel like there was any busywork. I have learned so much, . . . I think it is **amazing.**”

C. S., *Montessori Culture Certification, with honors, graduate*

4 COMMON QUESTIONS

Can I get a job with this certification?

For those seeking to lead classrooms in the U.S. in public schools, additional credentials **will** be needed. However, the need for Montessori educators is large and growing quickly. To fill this need, many schools hire educators with no Montessori credential and allow them to train on the job because no one with Montessori training is available. In these situations, a certification such as ours will put job candidates at a significant advantage over others with no formal Montessori background.

For private Montessori schools that do not require AMI or MACTE credentials, the certification will almost certainly help, but that is all we can say for sure. By the way, this is true for **all** online programs with no onsite or residential course content as part of their requirements. Claims that imply online-only “diplomas” or certificates are respected in the Montessori community on the level of an AMI diploma, or a credential from an AMS or other MACTE-accredited training program can be misleading. Training programs with course fees of \$4000-\$12,000 that require weeks or months of onsite instruction and 1 to 3 years to complete are *entirely different* from *any program available to complete entirely online*. U.S. Montessori schools are typically very clear about which kind of training they require. If you have specific schools in mind where you want to work, *check with them directly* prior to making any training decisions.

What will I need to do to complete the certification?

It will have 2 parts:

Montessori Culture Certification (MCC)

Upon completion of the first 2 modules of the self-guided program and successful completion of a *Montessori Mindset and Essential Practices Assessment*, these candidates will be awarded the new certification. This will require: reading 2 manuals of 50 pages each, viewing about 8 - 20 hours of video presentations (some optional), reading 2 or 3 books by Maria Montessori, 3 online assessments and written assignment sets, and successfully completing the final assessment. That assessment is a combination of an online evaluation and one submitted by email to a mentor. For those comfortable with reading English and expressing themselves through writing, the entire process will take 3 or 4 months, devoting an average of 6 hours a week to studying plus observation time (about 8 hours total to visit at local Montessori schools or 4-6 hours viewing Montessori classroom videos online.) If trainees have already read some of the books and manuals, it can take even less time. Trainees may take as long as one year to complete this entire program.

Montessori Independent Educator, 3-6 Program (MIEC - Certificate of Completion only)

This additional certificate will be awarded upon completion of the above *Certification* and emailing in completed checklists for the remaining 6 modules of the program. Each module will take approximately a month to complete based on the 6-hours-a-week schedule. Trainees may take up to two years to complete the second part of the program. This component is based on the honor-system and respecting the integrity and self-motivation of the trainees. Online support will be provided via a private Facebook group, or an equivalent online platform, for at least 2 years after enrolling in the program. (It will require the purchase of the 3 modules not included as regular content or bonuses for the MCC program: *Practical Life*, *Sensorial*, and *Phonics*, so they have access to all 8 modules of the *MFE Complete Home Study Course*.)

Can I enroll next year (2020) or later?

No, for 2020, and *possibly* for later. If it is *ever* available again, it will be in 2021 at the earliest. The whole answer is that it depends on how well this final session works out and whether I can get Montessori professionals I trust to participate in the mentoring and assessment parts of the program in the future. What I can say **for sure** is that this is the last time you can get Montessori classroom mentoring support from me personally and the last time I'll be the one assessing participants and signing all certificates.

Why this program now?

If you are seeking to make Montessori work, whether you are new to it or your school is still maturing as a Montessori community, this program will help you. Even if you have been leading a classroom for a while, if you sense there are deeper practices that could help you become even more effective, this program may be for you too. The practical skills of guiding children are combined with proven strategies to **move beyond the attitudes and habits you absorbed through the education you received as a child**. Though it is not often discussed, when it is brought up in online Montessori communities there is wide-spread agreement that this is one of the hardest things about being a Montessori educator.

How do I **unlearn** what is disrespectful to children – and doesn't really work? This program helps you not only notice the non-Montessori tendencies you bring to your classroom, but gives you practical ways to change them. These approaches are effective for **all students**, including those who are "not yet peaceful" (hat tip to my friend, Donna Bryant Goertz for that accurate and elegant phrasing.) This is also a unique opportunity to get feedback directly from me on your assignments. That option ends forever when we close this group **September 30, 2019**.

If you, or a colleague, are ready to take your Montessori practice to a new level, I hope you'll join me – or pass on this information!

Souzzann

MCC & MIEC 2019-2021 Schedule & Details

Start date: September 7 to September 30, 2019

Completion dates

Montessori Culture Certification (MCC) - December 2019 to September 2020

Montessori Independent Educators Certification (MIEC) - June 2020 to September 2021

*Program participants have a lot of flexibility in their timeframe to complete the program. Those who stay on track and complete each lesson as it comes up in the first round of email and Facebook group support will **complete their MCC in December of 2019** or early in January 2020. ~ For those who need more time, the automated email lesson support will start again in January 2020 and a final time in June 2020.*

3 COMPLETION SCHEDULES WITH TUITION INVESTMENT

MCC Only

Payment Plan Option: (See Full Pay option on the next page for best value option.)

September 2019 - MCC program - Starter Bundle arrives, emails & FB support start \$197

October 2019 - MCC program payment 2 - Language module arrives when paid \$197

November 2019 - MCC program payment 3 - Math & Cultural modules when paid \$197

(You are obligated to make the above 3 payments on the program schedule.)

December 2019 - Complete final assessment and certify - MCC (or finish January 2020)

(The first round of MCC email & Facebook group support goes from mid-Sep to Dec 2019, with Facebook support for final assessment preparation through Jan 6, 2020.)

MCC & MIEC - Finish Soon - After completing the above

The purchases below can be made at any time as long as they remain available.

December 2019 - Purchase - Practical Life module with discount \$ 59

or “ “ “ (If purchased after 2-29-20, \$119)

January 2020 -

February 2020 - Purchase - Sensorial module \$119

March 2020 - Purchase - Phonics module \$119

Total tuition investment \$888

(If Practical Life module is purchased the after discount expires, total is \$948)

If you work through each module as it is purchased, and then finish up with math, you would complete the MIEC program early in the summer of 2020.

MCC & MIEC - Relaxed Pace

- Do the *MCC Only* schedule above, except take a break in December and complete your MCC final assessment, taking your time, in January 2020.
- Do your *Practical Life* module in February of 2020 and then take 2 months each for the remaining modules and finish your MIEC program by the end of 2020.

OTHER DETAILS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Full Pay Option:

September 2019 -	MCC program full pay - <i>Starter Bundle</i> + all bonuses arrive, emails & FB support start	\$497
October 2019 -	Purchase - <i>Practical Life module with discount</i>	\$ 59
or	“ “ “ (If purchased after 2-29-20, \$119)	
November 2019 -		

The purchases below can be made at any time as long as they remain available.

January 2020 -	Purchase - <i>Sensorial module</i>	\$119
March 2020 -	Purchase - <i>Phonics module</i>	\$119
Total tuition investment		\$794

(If *Practical Life module* is purchased after the discount expires, \$854)

Your Best Success Strategy for Your Schedule

Automated email lesson support will be sent out twice more after the fall 2019 round. One will start again in January 2020 and a final time in June 2020. However, we *strongly* recommend completing the MCC in December or January with full group support.

We want you to succeed. Our participants who stay with the group for the early momentum are the ones who tend to finish the program and enjoy it the most. Since that is not always possible, we give you two more chances to have structure for completion provided through automated support.

The Facebook group support will be available at least through September 2021. However, after early January 2020 there is no guarantee of specific support in there and Souzzann's participation after that time will be very limited.

Montessori Culture Certification Program Requirements

Upon completion of the 2 modules of the self-guided program, and successful completion of a *Montessori Mindset and Essential Practices Assessment*, these candidates will be awarded their certification.

This will require:

- Reading 2 manuals of 50 pages each:
 - Module 1 manual: *Training Program Introduction and Mentor Preparation*
 - Module 2 manual: *Montessori Classroom Management, Leadership & Preparation*
- Viewing about 8 - 20 hours of video content (from the modules above & optional MFE-TV episodes)
- Reading 2 or 3 books by Maria Montessori
- 3 online assessments and written assignment sets
- Successfully completing the final assessment

That assessment is a combination of an online evaluation and one submitted by email to a mentor. For those comfortable with reading English and expressing themselves through writing, the entire process will take 3 or 4 months, devoting an average of 6 hours a week to studying plus observation time. (Observations require about 8 hours total, with travel, to visit at local Montessori schools or 4-6 hours viewing Montessori classroom videos online - *video option only available to those over 100 miles from a Montessori school.*) If trainees have already read some of the books and manuals, it can take even less time. Trainees may take as long as one year to complete this entire program.

MCC - MIEC 2019 Brief Summary

This is a two-part program for those seeking the *Montessori Independent Educators Certification for Ages 3 to 6* (MIEC). They will complete the *Montessori Culture Certification* (MCC) and then move on to the 6 modules for the specific classroom areas. *Total tuition for MIEC is \$794 to \$948.

It is also an option to complete *only the MCC* – and this is a *very good option* for Montessori Assistant Educators and those with prior training and experience leading a classroom.

Start date: September 7 to September 30, 2019

Completion dates

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Program participants have a lot of flexibility. Stay on track and complete each lesson as it comes up in the first round of email and Facebook group support in order to complete your MCC in December of 2019 or early in January 2020.

Montessori Culture Certification program (MCC)

Basic program

- ~ MCC digital content: 2 Modules - *Training Program Introduction & Mentor Preparation* and *Montessori Classroom Management, Leadership & Preparation*
- ~ *Emails with lesson content for the 10 program lessons based on Dr. Montessori's key principles*
- ~ *Facebook group support*
- ~ *Certification (with successful completion) with Souzzann's feedback on final evaluation paper*

(You will get questions answered, and feedback on work you post, in the Facebook group. Souzzann will provide some of this feedback, including answers to most questions needed to complete your work. The only detailed written feedback you will get from Souzzann is on your final evaluation paper.)

Tuition

\$497 - Full pay investment – or –

\$197 now, \$197 in October, \$197 in November - **3 Payments Plan** totaling **\$591**

Bonuses

- ~ \$60 discount code for *Practical Life* module (your cost: \$59) - arrives along with MCC modules of digital content, when you make your down payment
- ~ *Language Module* (not available to purchase alone) - arrives when you pay your 2nd payment
- ~ *Math & Cultural A & B Modules* (not available to purchase) - arrive when you pay your 3rd payment

When you pay tuition in full in a single payment, your bonuses arrive when you enroll and pay – or in a separate email the next business day following your payment.

Full Pay Bonuses

For all who enroll on or before enrollment closes and pay the full MCC tuition at that time

- 2 special Zoom calls with Souzzann
- Tag-me priority in the Facebook group (questions answered within 2 business days)
- Custom webinar - topics will be selected from full-pay trainees requests

Montessori Independent Educators Certification - Ages 3 to 6 (MIEC)

- ~ *In addition to the full MCC program above, participants complete 6 additional modules*
- ~ *3 of these modules, Math & Cultural A & B plus Language are included as bonuses*
- ~ *Practical Life is purchased at discount for \$59, as well as Sensorial and Phonics for \$119 each.*

*If you have already purchased some of our modules, your total tuition paid in program will be less.