

Look Who's Talking: Speech, Language & Hearing Development (COK-Special Needs, 1.5hrs/Child Growth & Development, 1.5hrs)

Knowing the appropriate developmental milestones of young children is an important component to preparing them for school success. In today's culturally diverse classrooms, it is more important than ever that educators not only provide language rich environments, but also that we are able to identify and respond to inconsistencies in a child's speech and language development. In this workshop, participants will gain knowledge, skills, and techniques for implementing developmentally appropriate practices that encourage communication and reinforce language development.

An Introduction to Montessori (COK-Curriculum, 3hrs)

This workshop is specifically designed for persons assisting or working in a Montessori environment. It will focus on Montessori's philosophy, principles, Method and materials. Participants will leave understanding...

- the importance of observation;
- the purpose behind key Montessori materials and equipment;
- when to intervene;
- the role of the adults in the Montessori environment.

Strengthening the Classroom Partnership: An Exercise in Communication

Participants will practice strategies designed to strengthen and improve communication in the classroom environment. This workshop is not intended to mediate communication problems, but rather to provide participants with the skills, strategies and opportunity to address communication concerns effectively and appropriately.

Speaking Hands: Using Sign Language with Infants & Toddlers (COK-Child Growth & Development, 3.5hrs)

This fun and engaging workshop is designed to show participants how to introduce and integrate sign language into their daily classroom routines. Learning sign language serves as a building block to early language and reading readiness. Giving young children another form of expression is essential to problem-solving skills that foster emotional well-being and self-esteem. Sign language is beneficial for all children and language backgrounds.

Language Sense: Promoting Language through Sensory Stimulation (COK-Curriculum, 1.5hrs / Child Growth & Development, 1.5 hrs)

As a child experiences new and different textures, tastes, smells, sights, and sounds, cognitive development becomes rich and dynamic. In this engaging workshop, we will discuss how all children can benefit from using sensory stimulation to enhance language development.

Professional Roundtable for Montessori Educators (COK-Professionalism, 2.5hrs)

This workshop provides Montessori educators the opportunity to share materials and information with colleagues, to discuss classroom strategies, and collaborate for the good of the whole Montessori community in a casual networking environment.

Montessori Series: Understanding Learning Disabilities (COK-Special Needs, 4hrs)

Dr. Maria Montessori began her career working with "special needs" children. Many materials and activities in the Montessori classroom can be used to enrich learning for children with various disabilities. This hands-on, highly interactive workshop will provide participants with the information and resources they need to accommodate, assist, and plan for children with various learning styles.

Montessori Validation Workshop (COK- Professionalism, 2 hours)

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has established "Validating Organizations" to be responsible for informing the State as to which programs meet the criteria to call themselves 'Montessori schools'. Education Matters, LLC is a MSDE approved Montessori validating organization. In this workshop, participants will be guided through the validation process for Education Matters, LLC.

Fine Art for Preschool Children- Part 1 (COK-Curriculum, 3hrs)

In this workshop, participants will learn about 8 unique pieces of artwork and the artists who created them. Participants will create several artist-inspired works, and will receive instruction on introducing fine art to young children. Adults and children will enjoy learning about these colorful, bold and dramatic pieces of art.