



AMI Standards

For AMI Montessori Classrooms

	Assistants to Infancy (0 to 3 years)	Primary (3 to 6 years)	Elementary (6 to 9, 9 to 12, or 6 to 12 years)
AMI trained teacher*	1	1	1
Non-teaching assistants	1 per 10 children	1	1
Consultation visit at least once every three years	Yes	Yes	Yes
Complete set of Montessori materials from an AMI approved manufacturer	Yes	Yes	Yes
Children of a mixed three-year age group, including a well-balanced division of ages (<i>ages listed are approximate</i>)	Parent/Infant or <i>Nido</i> : 2 months to 12/15 months Toddler: 12/15 months to 3 years	2.5 to 6 years	6 to 9, 9 to 12, or 6 to 12 years
Classes with an appropriate number of children to ensure social development	10-14 children	24-35 children	24-35 children
Uninterrupted, prolonged morning work cycles	Toddler: 2 hours per day, 4 days per week	3 hours per day, 5 days per week	2-3 hours per day, 5 days per week**
Afternoon sessions	Not required	2-3 hours per day, 5 days a week	2-3 hours per day, 4 days per week**

* *Some schools are temporarily unable to meet this requirement. If a school is unable to meet this requirement, they may apply for Affiliated or Associated status.*

**Elementary Work Periods

At the elementary level, prolonged uninterrupted work periods are required every morning and afternoon, with an exception being one work cycle each week which may be left free to accommodate additional subjects. In practical terms, what this means is that for each elementary class, one work cycle each week may be set aside for special subject such as foreign language or physical education. Out of a possible ten work periods per week, nine must be reserved for Montessori work. Other special subjects can be scheduled in such a way that there is still an uninterrupted work period.



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Assistants to Infancy

Classes for very young children are offered in the following age groupings:

- Parent/Infant: 2 months to 12/15 months
- *Nido* (infant environment): 2 months to 12/15 months
- Toddler Community: 12/15 months (walking well) to 3 years

The Classroom

The classroom must be large enough to accommodate the number of children in the group, bearing in mind the space needed for activities of practical life and exercises with sensorial material at the 3-6 age level, such as those done on the floor. A general guideline is 40 sq. ft. per child. Information on how to set up a Montessori environment is given to all students in AMI teacher training courses.

The Children

The group of children is made up of mixed ages with a reasonable distribution of the three ages concerned (0-3, 3-6, 6-9, 9-12). This figure may be reached over a three-year period. For example, a new class begins with approximately 10 to 12 three-year-olds, and each year a new group of three-year-olds is added. Twenty-four to thirty-five children are desirable in a Montessori classroom. Children should be allowed an uninterrupted amount of time to work. Extracurricular activities, such as physical education, music, foreign languages, and art, scheduled at fixed hours outside of the classroom, disrupt the children's individual rhythm of work and hinder the development of concentrated work, which is one of the key elements of normalization.

The Teacher

One head teacher with an AMI diploma for the appropriate age group will be in each class. Should local regulations make it necessary to have an aide, he/she should be a non-teaching aide and should assist the directress by making materials, supervising outdoor activities, and assisting with field trips or "going-out."

The Materials

Each classroom will have a complete set of materials. All the materials do not necessarily have to be on the shelves at one time, but must be readily available to the class should the need arise. Information on how to present the materials to children forms part of an AMI teacher training course.

Recognition

A school applying to become an **AMI/USA Member School** will be granted a recognition status based upon the training of their teachers. There are three different status levels offered, determined by the percentage of AMI trained teachers and their compliance with the AMI standards:

- **AMI Recognized**
To receive the AMI certificate of recognition indicating that a level is fully recognized, 100% of the lead teachers at that level are AMI trained and all of the AMI standards must be achieved.
- **AMI/USA Affiliated**
To receive an AMI certificate of recognition indicating that a level is operating at the Affiliated status, two out of three classrooms or three out of four classrooms at that level or multiples thereof, are led by AMI teachers. The level meets all other AMI standards.
- **AMI/USA Associated**
To qualify for the Associated status, 50% of the lead teachers must hold an AMI diploma. The Associated status is also a transitional category for schools that are in the process of developing programs that meet all of the AMI standards.

Grace Period

Affiliated and Associated statuses are granted for levels aspiring to become AMI Recognized. Typically, a three year grace period is given within which the requirements for AMI Recognition should be met.