

1970

Participation in the first AMI course in Munich led by Mario Montessori Sr., son of Dr. Maria Montessori; Margarete Aurin studied directly under Dr. Maria Montessori in Barcelona in 1933 and served as Mario's assistant during the first AMI course in Frankfurt in 1954. Prof. Dr. Theodor Hellbrügge, pediatrician and board member of Aktion Sonnenschein – Hilfe für das behinderte Kind e.V.

This AMI diploma was signed by Mario Montessori after passing the exams and certifies: "The holder of this diploma is authorized to lead a Montessori class with children up to and including the age of seven, including children with various and multiple disabilities. However, he is not authorized to train teachers in this method. This diploma may be upgraded based on two years of practical experience and following an inspection by persons authorized by the A.M.I."

1971

That same year, I began working at the model kindergarten based on Dr. Maria Montessori's methods, operated by Aktion Sonnenschein – Hilfe für das mehrfach Kind e.V. This kindergarten was the first in Germany to apply the International Montessori Method, providing educational care for children with multiple and various disabilities alongside children without disabilities. Under the direction of Ms. Margarete Aurin, I was able to familiarize myself with this educational approach in a very special way. I was invited to listen in as several students of Maria Montessori met for a discussion: Margot Waltuch (USA), Ann Heijenck (Amsterdam), Nancy Jordon (Dublin), and Ms. Grosso (Turin). The latter two were able to provide me with many ideas regarding work on inclusion, as it is called today. Their "life stories" were highly interesting to me.

1975

After several visits to my kindergarten class, Mario Montessori suggested that I take the AMI teacher training in the U.S., spending a year with Hildegard Solzbacher. All the papers I had to write could be in German; I had to send them to Mario regularly—every typing or typewriter error was visible on the carbon copy. That didn't bother him.

It took some time before I was ready to accept this offer. I didn't know the value of this trainer training. But ultimately, I trusted Mario and Margarete, and Prof. Hellbrügge supported the project.

In 1976, the development and implementation of the first AMI Montessori Special Education Course began under the direction of Ms. Margarete Aurin. The diploma was redesigned: "Diploma for Special Education" "... has studied the principles and practice of the Montessori method as applied to the education of children with disabilities as well as to the education of integrated groups of children with and without disabilities."

1977

Mario wrote to me: “I would like to ask you to take full pedagogical responsibility for the development of the Special Education course in Munich.”

I led these courses under the “Aktion Sonnenschein” program until 1996.

At the request of Renilde Montessori, Maria Montessori’s granddaughter, the combined course contents were to be separated. She wanted an AMI course covering the regular child curriculum and “a special qualification in addition to the usual AMI diploma.” As a result, participants received two diplomas: the “Montessori Diploma Casa dei Bambini” and the new diploma, which indicates that the AMI Training Center is now run not only by Aktion Sonnenschein but in collaboration with the International Academy for Developmental Rehabilitation. “The diploma entitles the holder to work with children exhibiting additional needs.” This text was also conceived by Renilde Montessori.

However, Prof. Hellbrügge did not want this separation in the training. Thus, the collaboration between Aktion Sonnenschein and AMI came to an end.

1998–99

Renilde asked me to establish a new AMI Training Center, which I was happy to do.

Montessori International Training Center e. V.

1999 – 2001

2002 – 2004

During my tenure on the MIA board, I conducted the first course (since 1954) for the school sector together with the AMI Elementary Trainer, Mr. Peter Gebhardt-Seele.

I hold the AMI diploma for the school sector.

2002

Montessori Internationales Ausbildungszentrum e. V. took over the sponsorship of the Montessori kindergarten I founded in 1983, which offers instruction in both German and English.

I served as chair of the board until my retirement. Afterward, for various reasons, it became necessary to find a new organizational structure for the AMI course:

2018

Montessori Adult Education MAE GmbH.

In addition to my work in Munich, I have been collaborating with Russian friends of Montessori education since 1990 to the present.

2013–14 and 2014–2015

I established AMI Montessori education in Prague, Czech Republic.

2015–16 and 2016–17

I established AMI Montessori education in Poznan, Poland.

The weekend course in 2017–2018 is now the “twentieth.”

New for 2017–2018 is the modular course.

In addition, I served as an examiner in Atlanta, Paris, Bucharest, Switzerland, and Moscow.

Pre-teacher training in Girona, Spain, and Switzerland.

Various visits to Sofia, Bulgaria, Austria, and Slovenia

In closing, I would like to thank Prof. Hellbrügge for my time as a board member of Aktion Sonnenschein – Hilfe für das mehrfach behinderte Kind e.V. I have come to greatly appreciate the many different ways he has helped “the child.” The construction of the children’s center took place during this time. It is unimaginable what this man has accomplished for “the child,” not only with his medical knowledge but also with his humanity.

I thank my daughter Maria for successfully completing the years-long AMI trainer training with great personal dedication and for continuing my life's work in the field of education and upbringing for all interested people around the world.

All children in the world need support from adults to develop their personalities.

However, Montessori is only as good as the person presenting the materials to the child.

That is why training in Montessori pedagogy is necessary for adults. The better they understand it themselves, the better they can help the child.

A warm welcome