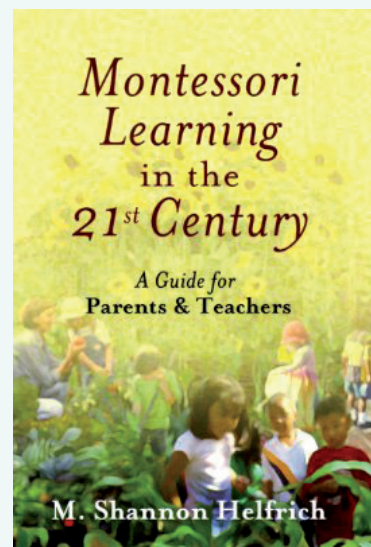


In the mood for Montessori reading?

Just out and highly recommended!



Shannon Helfrich, seasoned AMI trainer at the primary level, has written *Montessori Learning in the 21st Century*. This title is a valuable resource for all interested in Montessori education and where it stands in today's world. Both parents and teachers will find it helpful. The book offers a look at the basic elements of child development from the angle of Montessori philosophy and neurosciences. Check www.newsagepress.com for more info and book excerpts.



19

Adele Diamond publishes on Executive Skills in Science Magazine

Adele Diamond, one of the world's leading neuroscientists, has attracted international recognition for her work in researching Executive Skills in young children. In her keynote speech at AMI's 2010 Annual General Meeting she argued that in order to create, one must be in the moment and be allowed to stay there. Prof Diamond's meetings and talks with Montessorians and other neuroscientists familiar with Montessori led her to include Montessori in her most recent research "Interventions Shown to Aid Executive Function Development in Children 4 to 12 Years Old". The news about this article has already been tweeted and re-tweeted at great length around the Montessori world. If you would like to know more, here is an abstract and a pertinent web link.

ABSTRACT

'To be successful takes creativity, flexibility, self-control, and discipline. Central to all those are executive functions, including mentally playing with ideas, giving a considered rather than an impulsive response, and staying focused. Diverse activities have been shown to improve children's executive functions: computerized training, noncomputerized games, aerobics, martial arts, yoga, mindfulness, and school curricula. All successful programs involve repeated practice and progressively increase the challenge to executive functions. Children with worse executive functions benefit most from these activities; thus, early executive-function training may avert widening achievement gaps later. To improve executive functions, focusing narrowly on them may not be as effective as also addressing emotional and social development (as do curricula that improve executive functions) and physical development (shown by positive effects of aerobics, martial arts, and yoga).'

Read more on ...

http://www.devcogneuro.com/Publications/science_interventions_shown_to_aid.pdf