



Mississippi Montessori Alliance

www.msmontessori.org

Dear Fellow Montessorians and Parents,

During this time of *so much discord and uncertainty*, I would like to acknowledge the struggle this pandemic crisis is creating for you, your schools, and your families and offer you our support and encouragement. You are not alone. We are a family, a community within a community. *We share in each others' struggles and celebrate each others' accomplishments.* I am personally inspired by the *willingness and the commitment* of so many individuals to make personal sacrifices and to work together towards a shared goal. How very Montessori!

We each experience *a series of natural* crises throughout our lives. With each one, we emerge stronger than we were before. The word “crisis” carries a negative connotation *because it is most often used in situations like the one we find ourselves facing today.* However, another meaning of this word is “opportunity”. *It can be looked at as a point in time when a judgment is made on the previous time and how it prepares us for a future one.* If we look at it this way, this time of crisis affords us an opportunity to slow down, reflect, live in the present, and engage with our children and families in a way that isn't usually feasible with our busy schedules. It provides us an opportunity to practice kindness and tolerance, awareness and empathy, and service to those in need.

The Montessori method is about process. The completion of work or assignments is important and will come, but the process *by which the children arrive at that completion* is the most important aspect *and where we should focus our efforts.* Connecting subjects and concepts builds a solid foundation and develops real meaning which, in turn, creates motivated students. Our desire is that children feel connected to their own learning. The stretches of time that children spend outside of the classroom are typically times of processing and consolidation of the information they have already received. They are naturally learning all the time. Supplying them with a multitude of worksheets, arts and crafts, and other “busy work”, while well-intended and temporarily entertaining, is unnecessary and can even hinder that process of consolidation. We should remember that their brains are still working and they need plenty of down time in order to process and reflect.

I hope that you will seek peace and joy amidst this time of fear and uncertainty and allow them to drive your responses to this very serious crisis. In the meantime, we've compiled a list of free online webinars, videos, podcasts, blogs, articles, and Montessori-inspired children's activities to help and inspire you through this challenging time:



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<http://ageofmontessori.org/resources/webinars/>

<https://www.montessori.org/category/webinar/>

<https://misdami.org/montessori-teacher-training-california/community-programs/free-on-demand-videos-2/>

<https://marenschmidt.com/resources/free-monthly-webinars/>

<https://www.mariamontessori.com/>

<http://aidtolife.org/>

<http://www.michaelolaf.net/>

Please use us as a resource, as well! You may contact us anytime with questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns.

In Health and Harmony,

Mississippi Montessori Alliance

“Of all things, love is the most potent.”

— **Maria Montessori**

“We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.”

— **Maria Montessori**

“We serve the future by protecting the present.”



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— **Maria Montessori**

“Our joy is to touch, and conquer souls, and this is the one prize which can bring us a true compensation.”

— **Maria Montessori**