

WATERPARK MONTESSORI

OVERVIEW OF TRAINING

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Waterpark offers full high quality Montessori teaching diplomas for all age groups from birth to adolescence. It is fun and very satisfying to study to be a Montessori teacher but we are aware that it requires hard work, commitment and finance.

YOU CHOOSE HOW MUCH AND WHEN

We do not want to reduce the quality of our diplomas. Therefore we have used modern teaching methods and modern technology to design a method of studying in small parts that are accessible to all. We use modules (parts of diplomas) and stepping stones (parts of modules) to allow you to study at a rate that suits your family life, your work life and your budget.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

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You may enrol on a full diploma programme for one age group and finish within 1.5 to 3 years. ([See Study Options](#))

MODULES and DIPLOMAS

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A basic diploma for one age group is equivalent to one year study but you may take 1.5 to 6 years to complete it. It consists of **4 modules**. You may enrol on the theory and practical modules as units of study and you may enrol on the classroom practice module when you have started study on one of the other modules. You have 1.5 to 2 years to complete each module. ([See Stepping Stones to Diplomas](#))

Theory Module	+	Practical Module A	+	Practical Module B	+	Classroom Practice Module	=	DIPLOMA (one age group)
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Theory module is studied entirely online from November to June each year. You may take one or two years to complete. You must complete a theory module within 2 years

Practical modules A & B are studied from June to October. Each module has a ten day intensive workshop in the summer and 3.5 days in the autumn. A & B are in alternate years and may be studied in any sequence. The workshops are in Oslo, Norway. You must complete an individual practical module within 1.5 years

NOTE: Adolescent practical module B summer workshop is in Gothenburg; Adolescent A&B autumn workshops are in both Oslo and Gothenburg

Classroom Practice module is made up of hours with children of the relevant age, hours in a classroom in any good Montessori school plus assignments submitted online over a period of one or more years. You must complete a classroom practice module within 2 years.

STEPPING STONES

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Stepping stones are mini-modules that require a commitment of only 100-150 hours work and cost only 6000nok each. (See Fees) (See Overview of Options) You have two to three months to study each stepping stone unit and this may be extended upon special request. You will be awarded a letter of recognition for each mini module. Two or three stepping stones units make up to a full module. Nine stepping stone units will add up to a Montessori teacher diploma for one age group. [See Stepping Stones to Diploma](#)

Using Modules and Stepping Stones

You can build your stepping stones up to full modules. When you have completed the four modules you will have a diploma. You have 6 years to complete your diploma from the time you enrol on your first stepping stones unit. (This may be extended in special circumstances)

If you do not want to study for a diploma but would like to learn some more about the Montessori method, or you simply want a refresher to your existing diploma, you may study some of our stepping stones as separate units. Many of these units will add to your interest and knowledge and help you in your work with children, as a parent, a teacher or a classroom assistant. ([See Stepping Stones to Diplomas](#)) ([See Study Options](#))

REGISTRATION

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When you register for the first time with Waterpark you pay a registration fee of 3000nok. You will be able to sign up for additional stepping stones units, modules or diploma programmes without re-registering. However the registration will lapse if you have not studied any unit for 2 years.

OTHER OPTIONS

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Waterpark offers other options/modules which you will find listed in [Study Options](#)

- Montessori Special Needs and Montessori Add On Leadership are for those who hold Montessori diplomas.
- Montessori Leadership and Montessori Pedagogy are for non-Montessori teachers who have a degree or 3 year qualification.

HOW ADULTS LEARN - THE WATERPARK METHOD

We use Montessori principles when training adults allowing you freedom of choice and clear guidelines. [See Montessori Method-Adults](#)

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WHICH AGE GROUP?

See [Montessori Method/Children](#) to find out about the method for each age group

See also [Curriculum](#) and [Learning Methodology](#) to find out more about what is studied in each module and each programme

See also [Study Options](#). Study what is included in the Stepping Stone units for each age group to get more details.

CHOOSE WHICH AGE GROUP YOU WILL STUDY [choosing age group](#)

[0-3 Infant Toddler](#) [3-6 Pre-School](#) [6-9 Lower School](#) [9-12 Middle School](#) [12+ Adolescent \(Upper School\)](#)

INFANT TODDLER 0-3 years

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In this programme you will study the Montessori theory behind the very youngest children and you will be referred to the wide knowledge on child development that has been discovered in recent decades. You will also study birth and pregnancy conditions, activities and environments for infants and for toddlers, child development from Montessori compared to other perspectives, observation and general skills for running a day care centre for children up to 6 years. Education of parents is an important part of the study. You will be challenged to become aware of your personal attitudes and habits, seeking to recognise how they affect the small children you will work with.

[Montessori Method/Children](#)

PRE SCHOOL 3-6 years

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In this programme you will study the theory of how Montessori approached the 3-6 year old. She started her method with this age group and here you will find the basics of the whole philosophy. You will also study practical life activities, sensorial, early reading and early mathematics, practical culture activities and the Montessori approach to arts, crafts, drama and music. You will be challenged to learn to move and work with precision, in a way that pre-school children can easily understand. You will learn to use a beautiful array of Montessori materials that help the children to learn independently.

[Montessori Method/Children](#)

LOWER SCHOOL 6-9 years

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You start this programme with an overview of 3-6 years materials and theory. Then you will study the Montessori theory behind the child 6-12 years as the characteristics of the child do not change greatly between 6 and 12 years. A large part of your study will be about Cosmic Education which means that children learn all subjects in an inter-connected way. You will also study a very wide array of Montessori materials for mathematics, language, history, geography and natural sciences. In the 6-9 programme there are more materials than in any other age group but they are not very difficult to learn and you will enjoy using them.

[Montessori Method/Children](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL 9-12 years

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You start this programme with an overview of 6-9 materials and theory. Then you will study the Montessori theory behind the child 6-12 years as the characteristics of the child do not change greatly between 6 and 12 years. If you have studied theory 6-12 years before while doing 6-9, there is no need to repeat this module. A large part of your study will again be about Cosmic Education but at this age there is more emphasis on children working with projects. There is also a section that examines how to use school text books in a Montessori way. You will study Montessori materials for mathematics, language, history, geography and natural science that follow on those in 6-9. There are not as many materials as in 6-9 programme but in 9-12 you will meet some very interesting and mentally challenging materials that you should enjoy.

[Montessori Method/Children](#)

ADOLESCENT 12+ years

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This is our newest programme and is a joint delivery between SMI in Sweden and Waterpark in Norway. It includes an overview of 6-12 years materials and special observations of younger children. You will study Montessori's theory about adolescents and examine other approaches to students of this age. Erdkinder was Montessori's plan for adolescents but she did not have time in her life to work out the details. Time is spent examining Erdkinder and analysing how the principles might be applied in modern situations. Teachers at Adolescent level will probably be subject specialists but the programme will help them to apply the methodology to how they present subjects to their students. Cosmic education adapted for adolescents is studied and a great emphasis is placed on co-operation with other teachers. Individual intellectual stimulation using Montessori materials, motivation in learning, practical life skills such as study planning and curriculum are all covered in this programme. The challenge will be to thoroughly examine current practice in schools for this age and to try to find creative ways of applying Montessori methodology.

The Adolescent programme for Montessori has not been fully developed anywhere in the world although a core research group in USA promise a curriculum in 2012. Training programmes (including Waterpark) are based on adapting the Montessori core principles, including Erdkinder, to the demands of a modern day school and curriculum for this age group.

[Montessori Method/Children](#)

CHOOSING WHICH AGE GROUP TO STUDY

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Waterpark Montessori offers a variety of study programmes and training options. The Montessori method uses mixed age group classes of about 3 years span. Waterpark programmes are designed around these age groups. Here are some points to keep in mind when making a choice.

- **QUALIFICATION:** It is not necessary to be a teacher or pre-school teacher to study Montessori but these qualifications may be required to work in a school in your country. Before you study Montessori, a qualification in any area is useful but not essential. General knowledge, an interest in children and a good basic education are what you will need.
- **CHOOSING A STUDY PROGRAMME:** Waterpark Montessori offers a variety of training options. If a student, for some reason, is not ready to commit to training for a full diploma, then, individual Modules or Stepping Stones may be an option. The student can build towards a Montessori diploma.
- **CHOOSE THE AGE YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH** but of course within a school or pre-school there will be other factors to take into consideration. If you cannot decide between two age groups, choose the younger age as Montessori activities are possible to use beyond the recommended age.
- **TEACHERS IN SAME SCHOOL OR PRE-SCHOOL:** It is useful that a school or pre-school tries to get people qualified in a variety of ages so they can share responsibilities.
- **3-6 FOR NON-READING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL:** If you will work with 6-7 year olds starting school and many of them have not been to Montessori kindergarten, we advise you to take full Diploma 6-9 plus 3-6 Practical Module B (which includes the materials to help children to learn to read and write)
- **6-9 AND 9-12 =TWO PROGRAMMES:** Many Montessori colleges teach 6-12 years as a single study programme but Waterpark has divided this into 6-9 and 9-12 because of the volume of work involved. There is only one theory programme for 6-12 years.
- **ADOLESCENT = 12-19 YEARS:** The Adolescent programme covers children 12+ and is suitable for those working in schools up to 18 or 19 years.
- **ADOLESCENT IF NO PREVIOUS MONTESSORI:** If you are studying Adolescent and have never studied Montessori before, we advise you to take full Diploma Adolescent plus 9-12 Practical Modules A & B (which will give you a thorough knowledge of the materials that will be useful to adapt in a Montessori 12+ years classroom)

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