

Reflections on the Training of Trainers Programme



Ann Dunne recently completed the Training of Trainers Programme and achieved the status of AMI Elementary Trainer. Ann has been looking back on her time as a trainee, on the demands of the Programme and reviewing her own personal experiences with the various aspects of the training.

As I reflect upon my experience on the Training of Trainers Programme, the word “papers” spontaneously leaps to the forefront of my mind. That reaction strikes me as highly subjective, as all our experiences on the Programme relate to one’s own personality, culture and personal circumstances.

In an attempt to be more objective, I have made two classifications in my mind, the practical work which includes all the work with the students, for example, lectures, albums, practicals, school visits and so on, and the required written assignments for the Sponsoring Committee.

I have thoroughly enjoyed most, if not all, aspects of the practical work, the interaction on many different levels with the students and particularly the preparation of the lectures and the work with the materials which has been a continuous evolution in my understanding. It has been my good fortune that my Director of Training was willing to invest so much time in assisting in my preparation and supervising the majority of those lectures.

The written work on the other hand, if I am to try to be objective, took more time for me personally to come to grips with. I, like many others on the Programme I am sure, had to discipline myself to make the time to do the work, with the added personal element that expressing myself on paper would not be one of my gifts! Over the course of the years I came to enjoy the research element of the work, and appreciate how vital this ele-

ment has been for greater depth of understanding of the Montessori philosophy; an element which is eventually reflected in my work with the students. Every single time, I had to go back to the books by Dr. Montessori and look for her views; would I have done that were it not necessary and a part of what I needed to do? The time factor for those working full-time on any course will continue to be a problem as there are always practical matters that call for our more immediate attention.

To summarise, I came to the conclusion that just as I am evolving, so too is the Training of Trainers Programme which has to address the needs of many different people from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds.

I greatly appreciate that the Sponsoring Committee, the Dublin Training Centre, and Mary Hayes as my Director of Training, were willing, despite the extra work involved for them, to facilitate not only my training but also the time needed to complete it. To all of you—my sincere thanks!

Ann Dunne
Dublin, Ireland