

Voices of Educateurs sans Frontières

What is it?

The Voices of Educateurs sans Frontières series is an online programme, in which we are reaching out to whoever supports children, families and communities. The theme of the 2021/2022 series is: *Child, Community and Cosmos – From Independence to Interdependence*. The series will focus on the interconnectedness between the child, the community and the cosmos and explore the journey of human development, moving from building independence towards connecting to one's community and culture and finally to the interdependence with the global community.

The series will be divided into three topics:

1. Supporting human development
2. Sowing the seeds of culture
3. Finding our connection to nature

Montessori's profound contribution to the understanding of the child's development and her commitment to champion the rights, education and welfare of children and families worldwide provides the foundation of the series. Eminent speakers will share their work with the aim of deepening individual and collective understanding of essential Montessori principles and topics that relate to the broader social mission of Montessori. Through readings, discussions, reflection and exchange, participants will explore the complexity of the challenges of today's world and how Montessori principles can help address these.

We would love to see a diverse group of participants in terms of geographical representation, experience, interests and backgrounds. Participation is open to people with an interest in Montessori education and a strong commitment to social change. The group will be limited to a maximum of 80 people in order to facilitate deep and meaningful discussion, interaction and reflection. Participants will need to join all sessions as these are closely connected.

Voices of Educateurs sans Frontières serves three purposes:

Deeper Understanding: To deepen individual and collective understanding of essential Montessori principles and the broader social mission of Montessori.

Reflection: To support participants in observing and reflecting on the challenges of today's world, the impact those challenges have on our communities and the planet, and the help Montessori principles can play in addressing some of these. Through a process of self-reflection, participants will explore their place in the world and the contributions they can make to humanity and the planet.

Applicable Practice: To develop and encourage individual and collective knowledge of the innumerable possibilities, openings and opportunities for using Montessori principles in the world, and to acknowledge how one person can make a difference.

Set-up

Voices of Educateurs sans Frontières is an interactive online series which runs from July 2021 to July 2022. The interconnection between the sessions is essential to the success of the series therefore participants are expected to actively participate and contribute to the programme throughout the year.

The following elements are included:

Speaker sessions: food for the soul

Specialised speakers, whose work, wisdom and knowledge will enhance our ability to serve our communities, share their expertise throughout the series. The presentations of speakers will provide inspiration and new perspectives on topics relevant to today's challenges. They are the starting point for further discussion and exploration. Three speaker sessions will be held throughout the year.

Discussion Groups: Starting the conversation

Following a speaker session, participants organise and conduct discussion groups. The discussion groups are guided by a set of questions to support the reflection process and encourage participants to explore the topic from a local perspective, allowing for a more in-depth conversation on implications and opportunities. Through the discussion groups, participants are stimulated to explore different perspectives and gain new insights.

Feedback Sessions: Reflection and exchange

Each topic will be concluded by a feedback session, which allows participants to relate their local experience to the global questions and compare their insights and experiences to those of other participants. The feedback sessions will evolve around the outcomes of the discussion groups and create opportunities for learning and inspiration.