



MIA INITIATE LEVEL SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION PAGE

Montessori Institute of America (MIA) has several levels for School Membership. An Initiate Level School is a school that is currently working toward – or is striving toward having – a Montessori classroom that incorporates all of the **Core Montessori Components**.

MIA defines the **core Montessori components** as:

- Montessori credentialed teacher – a teacher having a Montessori credential from an MIA approved program that includes completion of practicum
- prepared environment – use of Montessori materials (Essential Montessori Materials, for Initiate Level), age appropriate furniture, etc.
- multi-age classroom – a classroom which includes children of several consecutive ages (preferably a 3-year age span)
- child-directed work – child selects and initiates own activities from the prepared environment of the classroom
- uninterrupted work periods – a classroom work period of at least 2.5 hours

Progressing through the Steps of Initiate School Member Level to achieve a qualified Montessori classroom may take as long as 5 years for some schools. Other schools may complete the process in less time.

Schools may work through the process of achieving a qualified Montessori classroom in different ways. The following is **an example** of how the process may be accomplished:

- Step 1** School applies for MIA School Membership using the *MIA Initiate School Membership* form and agrees to follow MIA Code of Ethics. The school will formulate a plan for incorporating Core Montessori Components into the school's program.
- Step 2** On or before the end of **year 3** of MIA membership, school will have **in one classroom**, a Montessori credentialed teacher and 100 % of Essential Montessori materials. The school will continue to maintain a plan for incorporating the other 3 Core Components.
- Step 3** On or before the end of **year 4** of MIA membership, school will have incorporated multi-age group of children into the Montessori classroom. The school will continue to maintain a plan for incorporating the other 2 Core Components.
- Step 4** On or before the end of **year 5** of MIA membership, school will have incorporated child-directed work into the Montessori classroom. The school will continue to maintain a plan for incorporating the other Core Component.
- Step 5** On or before the end of **year 6** of MIA membership, school will have incorporated into the Montessori classroom an uninterrupted work period of at least 2.5 hours
- Step 6** Having successfully incorporated and continuing to maintain the specifications of Steps 1-5, the school may apply for Associate Level Membership

Welcome To MIA! We look forward to working with you.

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