

31 October 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The Southern African Montessori Association is pleased to announce that the 15th National SAMA conference will be held from the 29th and 30th April 2016 at the Aviator Hotel and Conference Centre, Kempton Park, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa.

The conference will run over two days on Saturday (29th April) and Sunday (30th April). There will be an additional story-telling workshop on the preceding Thursday and Friday (27th and 28th April) with the Keynote speaker, Mr Michael Dorer.

Our theme for this year's conference draws on the 110 year celebration of Montessori Education where we can share our story and see that we are stronger together!

We have invited participants that include teachers, teacher trainers, school heads, parents and students (from both Montessori and regular education sectors for children age 0 – 18) and also leading academics, community leaders and other experts in the field of education.

JHB | 29 and 30 April 2017



We invite you to be a part of our conference by presenting a paper as either an oral or workshop presentation. For inclusion in the conference programme, please submit an abstract (summary of the content) of your paper to the conference committee (admin@samontessori.org.za or infosamacon@samontessori.org.za) by no later than the **2 December 2016**.

Format of Abstract: Please use the attached template

Your abstract should be a maximum of 300 words.

Abstracts must be submitted in Arial 12 point font with 1.5 line spacing

The presenting author's name must be underlined and all author affiliations must be included

The abstract title must be typed in bold font

Presentation Options:

Abstracts may be submitted for the following presentation types (please specify):

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Oral presentation: | 45 OR 90 minute session |
| 2. Interactive workshop presentation: | 45 OR 90 minute session |

Please Note:

- Submission of abstracts implies the author's agreement to publish the full paper in all conference publications including the website.
- Successful abstracts must be presented by the author/s or co-author.
- **Acceptance of abstracts does not imply any payment from the SAMA.**

- Presenters will be required to carry their own costs in terms of travel, accommodation, etc. in order to attend the conference.
- Presenters attending the conference will not be required to pay for their attendance on the day they present.
- Acceptance of abstracts is at the discretion of the SAMA Executive Committee whose decision is final.

Topic Suggestions:

Abstracts may be submitted on the following topics or one of your choice:

Toddler 0 – 3 years

- Meeting milestones
- Preparing the environment
- Engaging with parents
- Offering feedback
- Toileting
- Independence

Pre School 3 – 6 years

- Report writing
- Documentation / Record keeping
- Material making
- Normalization
- Preparing the environment
- Indoor/outdoor play
- Class size
- Mixed ages
- Freedom
- Is Montessori a good preparation for regular school?
- Are there specific outcomes after the 3 year cycle?

Elementary 6 -12 years

- Technology
- Exploring the Great lessons
- Learning daily
- Meeting expectations
- Fostering community between children
- Emotional Intelligence
- Freedom of Choice
- Are worksheets and workbooks supporting or harming the child's learning.

High School 12 – 18 years

- Is there a vision for us?
- Valorization
- Needs of the adolescent
- Coping in an anti-social world

Management

- Finding the right parents for your school
- Administration
- Branding your school
- Sending a clear message to parents
- Financial management
- Social media and your school
- Leading a team
- Conflict resolution and handling complaints

Should you require any further information or have any suggestions for us, please do not hesitate to contact the conference committee via email infosamacon@samontessori.org.za or telephonically on 011 326 3341.

Kind Regards

Kym Van Straaten
CONFERENCE CHAIR