



*The Montessori Teachers Association
and Montessori Australia
presents*



Laura Flores Shaw

**With a workshop for Montessori Educators on Friday 8th March
and a Parent Talk on Tuesday 12th March (educators welcome)**

At The Beehive Montessori School in Mosman Park



Laura Flores Shaw

Dr. Laura Flores Shaw is the lead editor, writer, and founder of White Paper Press, an education company focused on increasing the scientific knowledge of educators and parents. She received her doctorate from Johns Hopkins University School of Education, where she is also an adjunct professor, specializing in mind, brain, and teaching. Previously, Dr. Shaw briefly worked as a family systems therapist in the public-school system where she realized her desire to work on the prevention rather than intervention side of mental health. That led her to revive a failing Montessori school where she created environments that allow children to flourish. In 2014, she left school administration to focus on advocating for educational and parenting frameworks that can improve the lives of children and their families. Dr. Shaw's current research focuses on exploration of pedagogical constructs in practice and how teachers' knowledge of such constructs influences their teacher efficacy beliefs and, hence, their behaviours with students. She also seeks to align the field of education with the research on sensorimotor development, as it is intertwined with the development of cognition and executive functions. Dr. Shaw writes, speaks, and consults internationally on education, brain development, parenting, and organizational behaviour.

What is Normalisation?

The Brain: It's Not What You Think!

'Montessori is Brain-Based Education' for parents and educators

Montessori Teachers Association

PO Box 81
Mosman Park, WA 6012
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Educators workshops (suitable for all ages):

Session 1: Friday 8th March 9.30 am to 12.30pm

What is Normalization? (based on Dr. Shaw's research)

What *exactly* is normalization and which student behaviours actually demonstrate it? How do we distinguish normalization from simply good student behaviour? And can teachers foster normalization? Beliefs about normalization influence teachers' practice, as well as administrators' evaluation of teachers. But recent research shows that teachers and administrators lack agreement as to what normalization actually is and how teachers should foster it. This workshop presents this research and examines normalization through the lens of self-regulated learning and teacher efficacy beliefs. It inspires practitioners and administrators to reach an agreed understanding of normalization to improve the fidelity of Montessori implementation across all classrooms within their schools.

Session 2: Friday 8th March 1.30pm to 3.30pm

The Brain: It's Not What You Think!

Do your students' parents fear that negative experiences will damage their children's self-esteem? Do you encounter parents who fear sending their children to preschool because they think the separation might compromise their attachment? Do parents ever suggest that you're not effectively teaching their child because you're not teaching to the child's "learning style?" This talk provides information that teachers can share with parents to alleviate these parental anxieties, which stem from the media's common misinterpretations of neuroscience. It arms teachers with up-to-date information that can help them guide parents towards helping their children become independent, contributing members of society.

Parent Talk (educators welcome):

Tuesday 12th march 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Montessori is Brain-Based Education

For the last two decades, cognitive science has been experiencing a "pragmatic turn" away from traditional "thinking" based frameworks of cognitive development towards an "enactive" framework, where cognition is grounded in sensorimotor skills. As neuroscientist Daniel Wolpert states, "We have a brain for one reason, and one reason only: to produce adaptable and complex movements." This means we are not born to *think*—we are born to *move*. Conventional education, however, still operates from a "thinking" framework rather than one that is "enactive." Yet, over 100 years ago, Maria Montessori designed enactive classroom environments that train children's sensorimotor skills to purposely foster the development of their higher-level thinking. This talk shows how this 100-year-old pedagogy aligns with the most current research in cognitive science and neuroscience, making Montessori an education that is truly brain-based.

Registration for Educator Workshop

Registration: Registration fees include morning tea, please bring your own lunch

Please tick the sessions you wish to attend, and make payment as below:

MTA member registration fee:

- ☐\$ 70 for session 1
- ☐\$ 50 for session 2
- ☐\$ 100 for both sessions

Non- member registration fee:

- ☐\$ 90 for session 1
- ☐\$ 70 for session 2
- ☐\$ 140 for both sessions

Join MTA now to benefit from member rates, and save on future workshops
MTA membership ☐\$ 40

Parent Talk registration fee: ☐\$ 30 (educators welcome to attend)

Name:

Phone:Email:

Name of Your School:

Payment options:

- ☐ Cheque or money order made out to the Montessori Teachers Association of WA
(please post registration forms with your cheque to PO Box 81 Mosman Park, 6012)
- ☐ Direct Deposit
(please complete and email this form to debbie@beehive.wa.edu.au or post as above)

Montessori Teachers Association of WA

BSB: 306-048

ACC: 4178390

Please use your full name as the reference

I will be attending the following sessions:

Session 1: ☐ What is Normalisation? Friday 8th March 9.30 am - 12.30pm

Session 2: ☐ The Brain: It's Not What You Think! Friday 8th March 1.30- 3.30pm

Parent Talk: ☐ Montessori is Brain-Based Education Tuesday 12th march 7.30-9.30pm

