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Tammy Oesting and Juliana Fitts created the Montessori Classroom Assistants Course for Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood environments and are available for workshops and consultation. Contact Tammy and Juliana for further information.

Our aim is to provide a blueprint and necessary tools to nurture a mutualistic relationship between teachers and their classroom assistants.

> *"I am the decisive element in my classroom. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess tremendous power to make a[nother's] life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, a[nother] humanized or dehumanized."*
>
> -Haim Ginott

BLUEPRINT FOR ASSISTANT TRAINING

#1 – Establishing Your Relationship

1. Interview Your Assistant . . . What Attracted You to Montessori?
2. Communication Log
3. Observation Book

#2 – Child Guidance

1. Guided and Modeled behaviors
2. Overview survey**/Suggested responses**
3. Transition techniques
4. Observation techniques**

#3 – Care of Environment

1. Sample daily duties
2. Modeled speed cleaning, maintenance, order and beauty
3. Lessons on materials at the work space/shelf

#4 – Professionalism

1. Required health and safety training
2. Communication dos and don'ts** and channels
3. Sharing further professional development opportunities

#5 – Maintaining Your Relationship

1. Regular meetings
2. Convey philosophy over time
3. Increase independence (more skill = more freedom)

***Look for templates on AMS conference website*

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