



## Seacoast Center for Education

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### Guidelines for Early Childhood Overview

AMS and MACTE require 45 overview hours as a pre-requisite to Elementary training. This may be divided between discussion/practice and a maximum of 12 hours of observation in an Early Childhood classroom environment. Practice with materials for familiarity under the supervision of a certified teacher is an important element of an overview. Mastery of all aspects of the materials is naturally desirable but is not possible within the context of an overview.

### Documentation required for our records:

1. Date(s) of overview
2. Location of observations
3. Topics covered. This list may be reproduced or attached with a statement by the individual conducting the overview.
4. A photocopy of the presenter's Early Childhood credential from a MACTE-accredited program.
5. The following scheme is recommended but may be adapted by overview presenters. Recommended hour counts are given in parentheses

### Recommended Readings which may be used for discussion:

Montessori, Maria:   The Absorbent Mind  
                              The Secret of Childhood  
Kramer, Rita:         Maria Montessori: A Biography

### Theory topics (5)

Life of Maria Montessori  
The Casa Dei Bambini  
The Planes of Development (Emphasis on the first plane. We will cover planes 2-4)  
The Prepared Environment for 3-6  
The Role of the Teacher as an Observer  
Spiritual Preparation of the Teacher

### Practical Life Theory and practice (6)

### Sensorial Theory and practice (6)

**Language (6)**

Language Development and the importance of oral language activities  
Direct and indirect preparation of the hand for writing  
Language Activities leading to Functions of Words

**Arithmetic (8)**

Theory of Mathematics  
Numeration and Linear Counting  
Four operations with the Decimal System Material

**Cultural Subjects** including the Botany Cabinet and early Geography (2)

**Observation** of classrooms with follow-up discussion (12)