



**40th Anniversary of
MacDonald Montessori School**
MMS Annual Conference 2026
April 24 & 25 | Saint Paul, MN

BEING PRESENT AND ENGAGED WITH CHILDREN IN THE DAILY LIFE OF A SCHOOL

Mini Stories: capturing the creative and cognitive thinking of infant, toddler and preschool children



"The smell of flowers travels into my nose and goes to my brain. It travels back out of my body and become rainbows and hearts."-Nora



Friday April 24, 2026

9:00am-2:00pm

Directors/Administrators Workshop

Friday April 24, 2026

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Reception and School Visit
Opening Presentations

Saturday April 25, 2026

8:30am-3:30pm

Experiences in Dialogue:
Presentations and Collaboration
Lunch
Presentations
Expressive Language Workshops

Friday April 24, 2026
9:00am-2:00pm
Directors/Administrators
Workshop

Tour of the School with MMS Coordinators
Presentations & Dialogue

Beth MacDonald
Paige MacDonald
Lori ScottRussell
Karen Potyondy

Revitalizing and Renewing Our Commitment to Children

“It was SUCH a treat to be able to observe your environment, on Friday, with the children there! This is a special treat that does not typically happen in study tours. The opportunity provides for real-life observations of the 'why' behind what you do. I simply loved all of your spaces, particularly the 'studio' spaces. Thank you for access to your beautiful documentation panels. I loved learning about how the children interact with your educators and their environments.”
-MMS Conference participant



“The schools in Reggio Emilia thus could not be just anywhere, and no one of them could serve as an exact model to be copied literally elsewhere. Yet they have common features that merit consideration in schools everywhere. Each school’s particular configuration of the garden, walls, tall windows, and handsome furniture declares: This is a place where adults have thought about the quality of environment. Each school is full of light, variety, and a certain kind of joy....a space that reflects their personal lives, the history of their schools, the many layers of culture, and a nexus of well-thought-out choices.”

-Loris Malaguzzi
Founder of the Reggio Emilia Approach



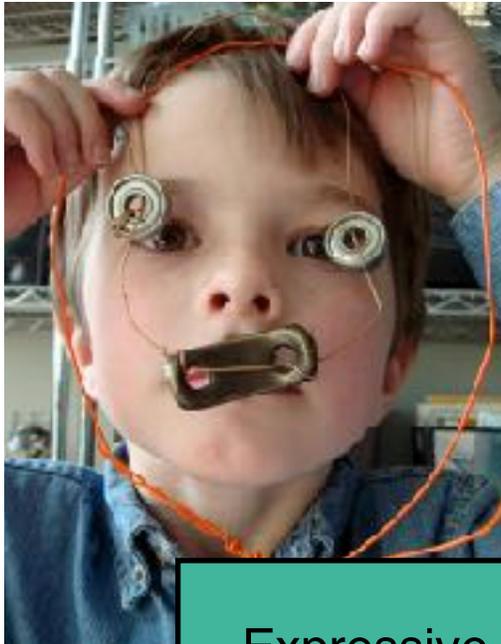
MacDonald Montessori School

MacDonald Montessori School in Saint Paul, Minnesota, will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in Early Childhood Education in March 2026. The school is inspired by the Montessori and Reggio Emilia Approaches to learning and has been in dialogue with Amelia Gambetti, Reggio Emilia, Italy for the last 32 years. MacDonald Montessori School serves 188 children ages 6 weeks through 5 years old and has a committed, creative staff of 45 educators. The educators of MacDonald Montessori School have a wide diversity of backgrounds in education (early childhood and elementary), Montessori, Psychology, English, Home Child Care, Political Science, Art History, Advertising, Social Work, Child Development, Environmental Education, Visual Arts, Ceramics, Anthropology, Music and Theater among many more.

“The Presentations were simply outstanding. They served to explain and enhance what we saw there. They shared what we all love and admire about the schools of Reggio Emilia. They were beautifully put together, easy to follow and inspiring.”
-MMS Conference participant



*“Dear MMS Team,
WOW! What a fantastic experience we had at your winter study tour. I could go on and on about the wonderful things my team and I did and saw while we were there.”*
-MMS Conference participant



Expressive Languages Workshops



Drawing | Paper | Painting | Natural Materials | Fabric | Wire
Recycled Materials | Clay | Wood | Music & Movement





"We also wanted to react to an education based on words and meaningless rituals and give POSSIBILITIES to a child seen as rich in resources and interests to a child interactive and constructivist. We wanted to create POSSIBILITIES to refine taste and aesthetic sensibility, to observe and find theories about children starting from scribbles and going forward. We also wanted to try out tools, materials, and techniques. We wanted to support creative and logical paths the children would CHOOSE to explore."

-Loris Malaguzzi, Founder Reggio Emilia Approach

"The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to age six. For that is the time when intelligence itself, a person's greatest implement, is being formed."

-Dr. Maria Montessori

REGISTRATION FORM

SPACE IS LIMITED...REGISTER EARLY!

MacDonald Montessori Annual Conference

Name _____
Email _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
School/Center _____
Phone _____

Friday Evening and Saturday \$250
Friday Director/Administrators Workshop \$150
Group rates available for groups of 3 or more

Send Check & Registration form to:
MacDonald Montessori School
175 Western Avenue South
St. Paul, MN 55102

Phone 651.227.1039 Fax 651.227.7304
Email: liz@macdonaldmontessori.org
(Cancellations received two weeks before are eligible for refund)

*Check payable to MacDonald Montessori School