

## **SWITZERLAND**

### **Association Montessori Switzerland**

The Association Montessori Switzerland is the forum for the two regional associations, Association Montessori (Suisse) for the French and Italian speaking regions of Switzerland, and the Assoziation Montessori (Schweiz) for the German-speaking area of Switzerland.

The Board of this umbrella association is made up of a representative from each of the regional boards: Co-Presidents Karin Truttmann (AMSchweiz) and Philippa Romig (AMSuisse).

We have an Annual General Meeting of the two boards once a year in November.

Karin and Philippa regularly discuss how to implement the work of the Association, travelling across the country to meet either in Swiss Germany, or in Swiss Romande in the spirit of co-operation that we have built over the past years.

### **Events and Activities**

- 1<sup>st</sup> AMI Assistants Course 0-3 in Zürich, finished in November 2016
- 1<sup>st</sup> AMI Assistants Course 6-12 in Lucerne, starting in March 2017
- Swiss Montessori Day in Basel in March 2017
- IFMM has supported two Montessori Assistants 3-6 courses during the year.

### **Special Projects and Outreach**

In Switzerland the name 'Montessori' is copyrighted, that means only licensed schools are allowed to use the name 'Montessori'. The four basic criteria for a Montessori license are a) A complete set of Montessori materials b) Mixed-age groups c) Recognized Montessori diplomas d) Uninterrupted periods of individual working time of at least 2½ hours.

From January 2017, a school can decide just to have a Montessori license by fulfilling the basic Montessori standards or it can decide to achieve a high level of quality and get the label SMQ.

An expert will visit the school to verify if:

- the working time lasts for an uninterrupted period of at least 3 hours.
- the classroom and its furniture are appropriate to the Montessori Method.
- the materials are well maintained, complete and displayed in an orderly and logical way.
- there is a high quality of Montessori education, if the teacher makes written observations, if the children have the freedom to make spontaneous choices, to be

independent, to develop sense of responsibility, to work on their own or with others.

- the teacher is capable of using the materials in a correct way.

## **Board and Committees**

### **AMSchweiz**

We worked very hard on the development of the quality label “Swiss Montessori Quality” (SMQ). In the AGM 2016, of AM(Schweiz) the members approved the SMQ, so that we were able to start the quality examination procedures from January 2017.

We are working on a new website, which will go online in May 2017.

### **AMSuisse**

Due to a legal debate during the past year, the new Board has taken some time to pick up the work that the previous Board had undertaken.

We have set up an active Facebook page, much viewed already and will soon have a new and more active website.

We are working with our colleagues in Swiss Germany to use the SMQ (see above) so as to support the quality of our schools.

Several new schools have opened this year in Suisse Romande, mainly 3 – 6 environments though several are also opening 6 – 12 environments. The second 0 – 3 environment in the region is rapidly expanding and causing much interest among the parents who have not seen how wonderfully independent these little children can be.

Philippa Romig & Karin Truttmann  
Co-Founders