



Amalia Montoya, Lead Teacher



Ms. Amalia Montoya is originally from Tarimoro in Guanajuato, Mexico and has lived in Chicago for many years. She came to Intercultural Montessori in 2012 and worked in our Spanish Language Primary Program, serving students ages 3-6, for 8 years. Ms. Amalia is well known in the school community for her incredible warmth and patience when working with our youngest students.

Ms. Amalia earned an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education from St. Augustine College in Chicago and a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from National Louis University. She also obtained an Early

Childhood Director Credential from National Louis and holds an Illinois Early Childhood Education Level 3 Infant and Toddler credential.

Amalia believes early childhood education provides the basis for all learning. Her personal teaching style is grounded in the Montessori Method and is based on respect for each child's individualism. In her classroom, play and learning are intertwined, helping to support each child's unique interests and development. Group activities help children to develop their sense of belonging within the classroom culture.

In her free time, Ms. Amalia enjoys spending quality time with her children. One of her favorite quotes by Dr. Maria Montessori is "Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which the child engages and try to understand them."



Ana Karina Briones, Assistant Teacher

Ms. Ana is originally from Tlaquepaque in Jalisco, México. She earned her Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education from St. Augustine College in Chicago. Ms. Ana joined the Intercultural Montessori team in 2015 and has worked as a classroom assistant and Extended Day teacher for primary age students.

Ms. Ana believes that students learn best when their environment supports their natural desire to learn and when they are encouraged to be independent, embracing their own learning process. She believes that students thrive "when we as teachers are a guide for them."

In the classroom, Ms. Ana enjoys sharing her love of art through incorporating music, dance and crafts in her teaching. A favorite quote from Dr. Maria Montessori is "Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create".