



MUSIC IN THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

Since 2005, Ms. Sandra has been teaching music in Montessori schools. She taught general music and piano at Gulfstream Montessori School in Hallandale, Florida for three years, and has been teaching piano and guitar at Summit-Questa Montessori School in Davie, Florida since 2008.

Ms. Sandra noticed very early on that Montessori schools have a format for lessons that makes it easier for a child to understand abstract concepts. The bells are the most well-known of lessons that teach music, and lesser known are the tone bars. She wanted to use the format that the students recognized, so she began to create her own tools, such as sandpaper notes, fashioned after the sandpaper letters and numerals used in the classroom.

Ms. Sandra was very curious as to why the instruction for music was limited to bells and tone bars, and why many Montessori schools hire music teachers from the “outside” to teach music. That led her into deeper research. When she learned through an article in a research journal that there were more than thirty unpublished books about music written by a woman who worked with Maria Montessori for fifty years, she was determined to see those writings for herself.

The *Association Montessori Internationale*, in Amsterdam, invited her to come to Amsterdam and study them. Ms. Sandra visited in November of 2019, and since then has been creating tools based on those writings and diagrams in the hope of adding to the educational materials for music in the Montessori classroom.

You can contact Ms. Sandra by email at: sandra.curless@gmail.com, or by texting her phone: 954.274.4610. Website address: www.mymontessorimusic.com