

My name is Andrea Blackwell and I am a Montessori teacher and a graduate student. I reside mainly in Honolulu, HI (U.S.A.), teaching Upper Elementary Montessori. Previously, about 6 years ago, I worked at a Montessori international school in Poland and first became interested in the Polish culture, language, and the implementation of Montessori in international settings.

As a PhD student at the University of Hawai'i, I studied Montessori education in Japan, China, India, Chile, the U.S., and Poland. I was fascinated with how this philosophy of education has grown and spread, especially in the last 30 years. Given my background in Poland and my basic understanding of the Polish language, I decided to focus my dissertation studies on Montessori education in Poland. Poland has a unique case for Montessori education within Europe and has implemented many different models in numerous cities.

I received a grant from the Kosciuszko Foundation (which does Poland/American exchanges) which aided in my ability to stay in Poland for 3 months and learn about Montessori schools here. I feel very privileged to have made connections with many schools and Montessorians around the country. This has given me the opportunity to observe the way that Montessori is taught in many Polish classrooms and schools, with students ages 2-15, in both Polish and in English. I have spoken to teachers at these schools from many different countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe who have a vast knowledge of numerous languages. Through these experiences I have been able to gain a deeper understanding of Montessori implementation in Poland and the different approaches that are being used.

Please let me know if you have any questions for me and feel free to contact me alblackw@hawaii.edu. I would love to learn more about your experience and your knowledge with Montessori education in Poland so, if you would be interested in communicating with me, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,



Dziękuję bardzo,
Andrea