

## Accessory Destination"

"It's all about outfitting at our store," Duke explained. "When a customer chooses one necklace, you need to layer—add a scarf or a bracelet. The cool thing about layering is creating whatever you want. You can make it very classic by adding a simple piece. Because you can layer so many pieces

together, you can create a million different looks."

Charming Charlie at Northfield will be open from 10am to 9pm starting Tuesday, September 6.

For further information, go to [www.charmingcharlie.com](http://www.charmingcharlie.com).

Nicole Duke will be store manager at the new Charming Charlie set to open in Northfield on September 6.



A Mandarin Chinese speaker uses a board game to teach Chinese to Molly Rebber as Punum Bhatia, director of Montessori Casa International, observes.

## New Montessori in Lowry Has International Focus

By Nancy Burkhardt

More than 100 years ago, Dr. Maria Montessori started the Montessori philosophy of teaching children by following the child. She developed a hands-on method of learning that provides a child with interests, needs and choices—and the freedom to work.

Punum Bhatia has been working with Montessori teaching for 27 years. She has been training teachers in the philosophy since 1994. Now as the executive director of the Montessori Casa International

(MCI) preschool in Lowry, Bhatia is combining teaching children with training teachers. Teachers "come from all over the state and overseas" to be trained in Montessori by her, says Bhatia.

The Montessori philosophy of teaching children has an international focus. "I want to open their minds to see the world as really a very small place, to be accepting of different cultures and different religions and different lives," Bhatia said. "I want them to become worldly, to be able to take care of the environment. Children (in the classroom) will take a lot of time to grow plants,

flowers. We want them to become responsible citizens. That was Montessori's aim.

"For the teachers, observation is a very important part of training," she explained. "We want them to see the child without bringing judgment in. Their power of being able to see the child and allowing the child to reveal themselves is important. Observation is difficult for adults. We bring with us prejudgment. We need to take the child for whatever he/she is."

Children who are 2½ to 6 years old can attend Montessori Casa International Preschool.

"Parents can expect a nurturing, caring environment where we follow the child," Bhatia said. "Keeping the child's interest is always in mind. We are also exposing the children to a second language—Chinese. We are preparing the neural passages of the brain so that the children will accept other languages. We want to help them to have a new way of seeing the world. We want to inspire this passion for learning. Languages open up a whole different world for them."

For information, call 303.523.7590, visit [www.mcidenver.edu](http://www.mcidenver.edu) or email Punum Bhatia at [pb@mcidenver.edu](mailto:pb@mcidenver.edu). The school is located at 7551 E. Academy Blvd. in Lowry.

MCI will hold a free seminar on what comprises a Montessori preschool education on Thursday, September 8th from 6pm - 7pm in its temporary location at 200 Quebec Street, Building 500, Suite 105.

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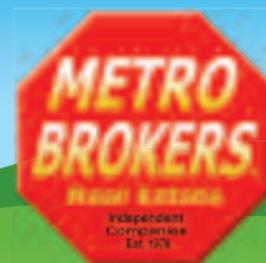
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