

## **NOURHAN YOUSSEF ZEHNIE**

Nourhan Youssef Zehnie, born in Amman, Jordan is the Academic Director for both the International Centre for Montessori Education and the Alraeda Company for Educational Investment. She is also the KG Principal for the Modern Montessori School, the external examiner for the ICME and a Senior lecturer at the AlReyadi Educational Centre for Modern Teaching Methods. Nourhan has a B.A in Education, a Diploma in Nursery Infant Training, a Diploma in Early Childhood Education - the Montessori Method, a four year Diploma in General Nursing and a Diploma in Neuro Linguistic Programming.

Nourhan founded the Arabic Language and Literary programme, the Montessori Method.

She also developed the Early Childhood Curriculum Workbooks (Languages, Mathematics and Sensorial) for the International Centre for Montessori Education, in addition to being involved in Montessori training for over twenty-four years.

She has received distinction for numerous achievements in the field of Early Childhood Education and has acted and still acts as a consultant and advisor in Early Childhood Education for the Ministry of Education. She has been, and currently is, a member of numerous committees such as the Higher Committee for the National Plan for Early Childhood Education (2004-2013); the "Education for all" committee; the "Quality Assurance System for Kindergartens" committee ; and the " General Frames and Learning Outcomes for Early Childhood Education" committee and kindergarten licensing committee, to name a few.

She also acts and acted as an advisor for a number of Early Childhood Education and Developmental programmes for the National Council for Family Affairs and several NGOs, she has also worked on voluntary basis with Care International to educate refugee parents to teach their children. Nourhan has acted as a consultant for the USAID ERFKE Support Project for Kindergartens Accreditation for the years 2003/2010.

In addition to that, she has been and being invited as a guest lecturer in Early Childhood Education, the Montessori Method in several Jordanian universities and conducts several workshops in different Arab countries.

Moreover, Nourhan has been invited as a private sector consultant and acts as a member of the Advisory Board for Hikayat Simsim Seasons two, three, and four, a co-production executed by Jordan Pioneers and Sesame Workshop in New York. She has also been consulted for the video production of "Al Haywanat Min Hawlina" which was produced by the Al Mufakiroun Al Sighar Company.

It is her passion and her perseverance for the betterment of children as society's cornerstones that have made her one of the leading authorities in the field of Early Childhood Education in Jordan and a pioneer in the Montessori Method of Education in the Middle East.