



Meraki Consulting
EDUCATION EXPERT

Hello and welcome! I'm Ruchira ("Mr. Ru") Fernando, a Montessori educator / consultant with over fifteen years of experience in a variety of Montessori environments. My commitment to early childhood education stems from my dynamic upbringing in Sri Lanka.

My grandparents' unwavering passion for the arts and education left behind a legacy that still echoes across my homeland, Sri Lanka. Despite an ongoing civil war that was destroying our country, their legacy opened doors for me to the most respected schools in the country. It was in those classrooms that I discovered the profound impact education could have, not just on academics, but on the soul.

In addition to learning to read, write, and solve equations, I had the space to explore creativity, to build a career in sports, to form lifelong friendships, and to practice the art of connection. These institutions gave me more than a formal education. I learned life skills that prepared me to move across continents, adapt to unfamiliar cultures, and thrive in environments that once seemed out of reach.

The war halted our way of life and numbed us with fear. My parents were theatre and movie actors and modelled a life rich in story, passion, and vulnerability. Watching them navigate life with courage and authenticity shaped how I saw the world. Going into war torn areas of the country as actors made me empathetic, curious, and connected to the layers of the human experience from a young age.

When I began my journey into Montessori education, something shifted. To become an effective peace educator, I looked back into my childhood with honesty, compassion, and a willingness to accept it all - the joy and the pain. Being surrounded by children's laughter and wonder gave me the space to heal. This introspective journey has taught me to create dynamic classroom environments and lesson plans that harmonise with the unique attributes of each child to facilitate their development.

Becoming an educator brought me home to myself and gave me a sense of purpose. It is through our children that we can create a peaceful future for our humanity. I hold

deep gratitude for the teachers who shaped me, the pedagogical frameworks that grounded me, the friends and parents who supported me, and most importantly, the children. They have been my greatest teachers and companions in this ongoing journey of healing, growth, and love.

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