

## A WOMAN OF VISION

**TINA PATEL**  
**DIRECTOR AND OWNER**

### **MONTESSORI ONE PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY ACADEMY**

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**T**ina Patel is a determined woman. Using her Master's degree in Architecture, Patel applied her creative vision to opening Montessori ONE, Albuquerque's only Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) pre-school in 2007.

Patel came to the United States from India at age 10 with her grandparents, to be raised by her uncle and his family in Oswego, New York. Her independence from this early age formed the woman she is today. A self-made woman, Patel modeled herself and her risk-taking vision after her father, her biggest role model.

Since arriving in New Mexico, Patel has made education her priority. She worked with nonprofit organizations helping at-risk children graduate high school, and started two charter high schools.

Patel recognized a need for academic support during early childhood and chose the Montessori method after seeing success in her own daughters. Working with high school students, Patel realized how crucial early education is to future outcomes.

Patel expanded in 2015, opening the elementary school, in response to community demand. It is easy to see Patel's architectural background in the state of the art facilities specifically designed to meet the children's needs.

The Elementary school received AMI accreditation within six months of opening. "This is rare and considered a high accomplishment in the AMI community," Patel says. Montessori ONE serves 150 students and families.

